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P8-308

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATION BILL, 1920

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS UNITED STATES SENATE

SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION

ON

H. R. 4226

BILL MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE
EXPENSES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 1920, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Printed for the use of the Committee on Appropriations



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1910



SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

CHARLES CURTIS, of Kansas, *Chairman*.

WESLEY L. JONES, of Washington.

JOHN WALTER SMITH, of Maryland.

LAWRENCE Y. SHERMAN, of Illinois.

MARCUS A. SMITH, of Arizona.

FREDERICK HALE, of Maine.

EDWARD J. GAY, of Louisiana.

LAWRENCE C. PHIPPS, of Colorado.

WILLIAM J. HARRIS, of Georgia

KENNEDY F. REA, *Clerk*.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATION BILL, 1920.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1919.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee met at 10 o'clock a. m.

Present: Senators Curtis (chairman), Jones of Washington, Sherman, Hale, Phipps, and Harris.

Also, Louis Brownlow, president of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia; W. Gwynn Gardiner, commissioner of the District of Columbia; Lieut. Col. Charles W. Kutz, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, engineer commissioner of the District of Columbia; Alonzo Tweedale, auditor; and Daniel E. Garges, chief clerk, engineering department.

The subcommittee thereupon proceeded to the consideration of the bill (H. R. 4226) making appropriations to provide for the expenses of the government of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, and for other purposes.

STATEMENT OF LOUIS BROWNLOW, W. GWYNN GARDINER, AND LIEUT. COL. CHARLES W. KUTZ, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The CHAIRMAN (Senator Curtis). Gentlemen of the commission, I should like to have you simply go over the bill first and point out the matters that were left out that you would like to have put in. I do not care to have you review the whole matter. Your testimony has been read. If you will point out the items that you think ought to be put in, we should like to have you do that.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We will go through and call attention to those things that were omitted by the House, and also those Senate items that were omitted by the House that we would like to have retained.

Senator CURTIS. Yes; not those that you would like to have, but those that are necessary. Those that you would merely like to have we want to leave out, unless you need them.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Even in the few supplemental estimates that we submitted we were not governed by our desires, but by what we conceived to be the necessities.

The first thing we desire to call attention to is on page 3.

GENERAL EXPENSES.

BUILDING INSPECTION DIVISION.

Col. KUTZ. Under the head of "Building Inspection Division," we ask that the appropriation for temporary employment of additional assistant inspectors be increased from \$1,500 to \$1,800. That increase was allowed by the Senate last spring, and the need is greater

than ever, on account of the vastly increased amount of building that is now in progress.

Senator CURTIS. On account of the great increase in the number of buildings?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir; on account of the great increase in the number of buildings being erected.

FEEs FOR INSPECTING ELEVATORS, ETC.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. At the bottom of page 3 there is a provision which last year passed both Houses, but was thrown out on a point of order in the House this year. It simply provides that the commissioners may collect fees for inspecting passenger elevators, hotels, public halls, moving-picture shows, etc. That is something that we did for many years under a commissioners' regulation, but a decision in court decided that we could not do it without congressional authority.

Col. KUTZ. It is a matter in which the commissioners have no special interest. If the fees are collected, the service is self-supporting. If the fees are not collected, the entire burden is paid out of the Treasury.

Senator CURTIS. And you collected them until the Willard Hotel brought a suit against you in court, and the court decided that under existing law you had no right to charge fees, as I remember the hearings last time?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. Go ahead, gentlemen.

CARE OF DISTRICT BUILDING.

Col. KUTZ. On page 4, under the heading "Care of District Building," the commissioners, when before the House committee, called attention to the fact that in the three engine rooms of the District—that is, the District Building engine room, the engine room at the sewage pumping station, and that at the Water Department pumping station—the wages of the engine-room employees as fixed on the statutory roll were so low that during the law the commissioners were compelled to disregard the statutory rates and employ engine-room personnel on a per diem basis. We ask, in advance of action by the congressional investigating commission, that consideration be given at this time to continuing these employees at their present rates of pay. In other words, if we put them back on the statutory roll on the 1st of July and give them in addition to that only the \$240 bonus, their compensation will be in many cases from four to five hundred dollars a year less than they are now receiving, and it will be simply impossible to hold them in their positions.

We suggested to the House committee two methods of accomplishing this: One, in case the committee did not desire to increase the statutory salaries, that they strike the positions from the statutory roll, and simply increase the lump-sum allotment for the maintenance of these buildings or stations for the present year, with the expectation that before another year elapses the congressional commission will fix what was a reasonable rate for these employees.

Senator CURTIS. What salaries do you refer to in this item on page 4?

Col. KUTZ. The items were three assistant engineers, two dynamo tenders——

Senator CURTIS. What lines?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Lines 10, 11, and 12.

Senator CURTIS. The three assistants were raised to \$1,200. What are you paying them now?

Col. KUTZ. We are paying them \$1,400 per annum, and in addition to that they get the \$120 bonus, making \$1,520.

Senator CURTIS. And with the bonus they will get \$1,440?

Col. KUTZ. As raised by the House.

Senator CURTIS. What is the next one?

Col. KUTZ. The next item is two dynamo tenders in line 11, now getting, including the bonus, \$1,220. The House merely changed the amount from \$875 to \$880. Together with the bonus, they would get \$1,120 against \$1,220.

Senator CURTIS. Then, if that is increased to \$980, they would get——

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The same.

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir; we suggested that the three assistant engineers be placed at \$1,280, the two dynamo tenders at \$980, and the electrician's helper at \$880, because with those rates and the bonus added they will get just what they are getting to-day.

Senator CURTIS. What is the other change you recommend? You said something about \$880. I did not catch that exactly.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. That was the electrician's helper. The House put that at the figure we suggested.

Senator CURTIS. Then those two changes are all you want?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. Go ahead.

Col. KUTZ. In presenting this item to the committee last spring, the commissioners asked for an additional employee, that of store-keeper, care of District Building, at \$900.

Senator CURTIS. That was put in in the Senate; was it?

Col. KUTZ. That was put in in the Senate, but not by the House. The reasons are set forth in the hearings.

Senator CURTIS. There are three Senators here now who were not here before. You gave, as a reason for that, that they had 2,300 items of property to look after, and that it was necessary. That briefly states it; does it not?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir; and we do employ such a man now on a per diem basis, but it is a position of such a permanent character that we felt that he should be provided for in the way we suggested.

Senator CURTIS. Go ahead.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. On page 5 there is an item to which we wish to call attention under the collector's office. Commissioner Gardiner has not reached here yet, but I will take this up.

We estimated new, and there were omitted, as shown by the slip on the right-hand side of the page, for a chief bailiff and two clerks, at \$1,200, and a refund and certificate clerk, at \$1,400. We believe that

all of those employees are necessary, but we should like especially to urge the two clerks, at \$1,200. The business of that office has grown so greatly that it is not possible now adequately to serve the public, because we have not enough clerical help, and we should like to ask especially for those two clerks out of the four positions. All of them would be highly desirable, but the two I put in the category of necessary employees.

Senator CURTIS. That is because of the great increase in the amount of business done?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The great increase in the amount of business done in the tax office, largely on account of the provision of the intangible-tax law, which requires a separate bill, and brings in about \$800,000 a year; but it requires separate billing, and has greatly increased the clerical work.

Senator CURTIS. It brings in how much?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. About \$800,000—to be more exact, \$880,000 this last year.

CORPORATION COUNSEL.

On page 6, under the office of the corporation counsel, I should like to call attention to two items. One, estimated new, is on the right-hand side—"Inspector of claims, \$2,000." We should like very much to have this man, who has been performing this service for a great many years, put on the annual roll. He is now paid from various appropriations. He is the man who inspects every claim for damages that is made against the District of Columbia. He earns his salary for us many times over, and we believe that it should be a permanent statutory position. The man in question has held the position about 10 or 11 years, and is a very valuable man; and we should like to get him on the regular establishment, instead of paying a part of his salary from the appropriations for the street department, sewers, etc.

Senator HALE. And it would not be any more money than he gets now?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. It would be no more money than he gets now, with the bonus he is getting.

Senator CURTIS. You put that in for \$2,000. You estimated \$2,000, and the Senate last time put it in at \$1,800?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. \$1,800.

Senator CURTIS. Would that be satisfactory?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. That would equal what he gets now with the bonus; yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. All right.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. I should like, gentlemen, if the committee will indulge me, to ask for something in the office of the corporation counsel which is not estimated for, and that is another assistant at about \$1,500 for use in the police court. The assistant corporation counsel in the police court last year filed 29,000 informations.

The assistant district attorney in the United States branch of the police court filed 8,000 information. The assistant district attorney has an assistant. Our man has not. To handle 29,000 complaints and information, it requires that man to work all day, to work every

night, and it is impossible for him to give the work all the attention that he should give. He is assisted by two police officers, two privates, but they have no legal experience; and we should like very much to have an additional corporation counsel who would be assigned to the police court to assist that man.

Commissioner Gardiner, who has charge of that office, has now come in.

Senator CURTIS. How would you designate him?

Commissioner GARDINER. Assistant corporation counsel, only.

Senator CURTIS. At how large a salary?

Commissioner GARDINER. \$1,500 would be the minimum salary, and I believe that would be sufficient. They suggested \$1,800, but I went over the matter with the corporation counsel, and we believe we can get along with that.

Senator HALE. Where does he come along—seventh?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. He is seventh in the order of the bill.

Commissioner GARDINER. I have here a letter written to the corporation counsel by the young man who is now at the police court. If you prefer, Mr. Chairman, I will put this in the record of the committee, or shall I read it?

Senator CURTIS. You had better read it.

Commissioner GARDINER. Very well. [Reading:]

COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, June 9, 1919.

HON. CONRAD H. SYME,
Corporation Counsel.

MY DEAR MR. SYME: Several times recently I have called to your attention the great increase in the work of the District branch of the police court, where I act in the matter of prosecutions as your assistant. The time has come when it is physically and mentally impossible for one man to longer properly handle the work of this office.

I attribute the increase in the work of this court mainly to three classes of cases—health, traffic, and the prohibition law. All of these are being strictly enforced. In the case of the health regulations, scores of new restaurants and lunch rooms have sprung up. Dozens of cases involving health ordinances are filed here daily. With the vast increase in the population of this District during the past year and a half have come hundreds of new residents who are the owners of automobiles. Others already residents have acquired automobiles. The old horse-drawn vehicle has given way to motor-drawn vehicles for commercial purposes. Thus traffic, while always a big problem, has become a greater one, and violations of the traffic regulations have increased by leaps and bounds, calling for hundreds of increased prosecutions in the District branch of the police court. The greatest increase, so far as time and preparation of cases are concerned, however, is under the local prohibition law. The penalty for the illegal sale of alcoholic liquor under the local law is such as to entitle the defendant to a trial by jury. Nine out of ten persons so charged demand jury trials. They do so, without question, in order to secure delay, well knowing the congested condition of the docket. While the number of cases of intoxication and disorderly conduct have decreased, the number of illegal sales of alcoholic liquor have greatly increased.

I may say that that is a volume of business in itself. Every man asks for a jury trial, in the hope that the delay may give him an opportunity to squeeze out, by absent witnesses or in some other way.

For the first four months of the fiscal year 1917-18, under the old excise law, where a license to sell alcoholic liquor was required, there were 23 violations of such law by illegal selling. For the remaining eight months of the fiscal year 1917-18 there were 600 informations filed in the District branch of the court for the illegal sale of alcoholic liquor. At this date 175 cases of selling alcoholic liquor where jury trials were demanded are pending. Many others had to be nolle prossed by reason of witnesses leaving the jurisdiction before the defendant could be brought to trial. This should not be. Hundreds, however, have been tried, convicted, and sentenced.

Another class of cases which I desire to call attention to is the preliminary hearings in colliding cases (traffic), which are held in this office at 1 o'clock daily. These number from 10 to 20 and more a day. It has become necessary for me to abandon entirely hearing these cases personally and place them for hearing in the hands of the two members of the police force detailed in this office as clerks. The public is entitled to have these preliminary cases heard by an assistant corporation counsel, but under the present conditions this is impossible.

That is not, I submit, a fair proposition to the residents of the District.

I let me compare, for your information, the District branch with the United States branch of the police court as concerns the number of informations filed in each branch, the revenue collected and the detail of assistants in the respective branches. The work of the assistant United States attorney at police court is similar to that of the assistant corporation counsel at the same court. The former conducts prosecutions in the United States branch and the latter in the District branch. There are two assistant United States district attorneys in the United States branch of the court as against one assistant corporation counsel in the District branch. The assistant district attorney is also assigned a stenographer. The assistant corporation counsel is not but does all his own stenographic work, fortunately being a stenographer. The two policemen detailed in the District branch as clerks are not stenographers nor are they versed in the law.

Informations filed in the United States branch of the court for the fiscal year 1917-18 numbered 8,644, as against 29,021 informations filed in the District branch for the same period.

Fines and forfeitures collected in the United States branch of the court for that period amounted to \$36,155.69, as against \$150,874.34 in the District branch.

With two assistant United States district attorneys, it is possible for one to be in court conducting prosecutions while the other is hearing complaints and preparing informations in his office. This can not be in the District branch with but one prosecuting officer. It is necessary that I constantly hear complaints from policemen and citizens, as well as heads of the various departments of the District government, and advise as to law and procedure. Thus, with the exception of jury trials, the court is compelled to hear the larger percentage of cases presented without the presence of a prosecuting officer. This should not be.

Comparison of the salaries of the assistant United States district attorneys at police court with that of the assistant corporation counsel shows that the basic pay of the chief assistant United States district attorney at police court is \$2,500, as against \$1,800 of the assistant corporation counsel. The assistant to the chief assistant receives a basic salary of \$1,700. The clerk of the court receives a basic salary of \$2,200.

With the work of the two branches of the court so similar and the District branch filing over three times as many informations as the United States branch, the need of an additional assistant corporation counsel at this court can be readily seen. This should be done in the interest of the District government and the general public. The compensation of the assistant corporation counsel here should also equal that of the chief assistant United States attorney at police court.

Very truly, yours,

RINGGOLD HART,
Assistant Corporation Counsel, Police Court.

The cases are more numerous in the District branch, because they are of a smaller character, as a rule. In the United States branch, in any felony there is only a preliminary hearing, the defendant being sent on for the action of the grand jury.

Senator HALE. How about these other assistant corporation counsel? Are they all busy, so that they can not do the work?

Commissioner GARDINER. Yes; they are busy at the various branches. For instance, we have one at the juvenile court. We have others in the office proper.

Senator HALE. They could not give any time to this work?

Commissioner GARDINER. They could not.

Senator PHIPPS. What is the present compensation of this man?

Commissioner GARDINER. \$1,800.

Senator PHIPPS. He is the fourth assistant?

Commissioner GARDINER. The fourth assistant.

ENGINEER COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

Col. KUTZ. On page 8, line 11, we have:

Steam engineers—principal, \$1,800; three at \$1,200 each; three assistants, at \$1,050 each, six oilers, at \$600 each; six firemen, at \$875 each.

These positions are in the same class with those in the District Building to which I recently referred, in that the statutory salaries were so low that during the war it was necessary to pay these men on a per diem roll out of lump-sum appropriations. We suggested to the House Committee that these statutory salaries be increased to the point that with the bonus that they will receive after July 1, \$240, their total compensation would be the same as it is at present. These employees, I may say, are at the sewage pumping station. The salaries suggested are, on line 12, in lieu of \$1,800, \$2,280—

Senator CURTIS. That, with the \$240 bonus would run this man's salary up over \$2,500?

Col. KUTZ. It would run it up to \$2,520, which he is now receiving.

Senator HARRIS. What do these men do, General?

Col. KUTZ. The principal steam engineer has charge of the sewage pumping station; the engineers have three shifts, one on each shift, and they are employed for seven days in the week. That is, it is a continuous employment.

Senator CURTIS. What about the next one?

Col. KUTZ. For the steam engineers, we suggest \$1,890 as the statutory salary, which, together with the bonus, will give them \$2,130, which they are now receiving.

Senator CURTIS. I have a note here of the "steam engineer, principal, \$2,280."

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir; and then the next item is three at \$1,200.

Senator CURTIS. What about them?

Col. KUTZ. We suggest \$1,890 for those. We ask that the three assistants at \$1,030 be increased to \$1,650.

Senator CURTIS. Go ahead.

Col. KUTZ. We ask that the six oilers at \$600 be increased to \$1,080, and that the six firemen at \$875 be increased to \$1,250.

Senator CURTIS. Is that all?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

The next item is on page 9, under the Public Utilities Commission. At the time the commissioners appeared before the Senate committee in the spring the wish was expressed that the statutory roll be substituted for the lump-sum appropriation of \$33,000.

Senator CURTIS. That was done in the Senate; was it not?

Col. KUTZ. That was done in the Senate, but in a way that did not quite conform with the present needs of the commission; and we submitted to the House committee recently, and there is published in the House hearings on page 11 a list of the proposed designations and proposed salaries, aggregating \$32,920.

Senator CURTIS. What did you add to what was put in by the Senate?

Col. KUTZ. We made a number of changes. The executive secretary and accountant remained unchanged. We omitted a statistical clerk that you inserted. We suggested an increase in the traffic engineer from \$3,000 to \$3,600, a reduction in one inspector from \$1,800 to \$1,600, and an additional inspector at \$1,200.

Senator CURTIS. Then you have two at \$1,600, one at \$1,400, and one at \$1,200?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. Let me go back to the first change you made. You left out one that we have in here, and I did not get it.

Col. KUTZ. The first change was the omission of the statistical clerk at \$2,000.

Senator CURTIS. You left him out?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. Go ahead.

Col. KUTZ. Then the next was an increase in the salary proposed for the traffic engineer from \$3,000 to \$3,600. That is the compensation that we are now paying. We also suggested a decrease in the first inspector from \$1,800 to \$1,600, and one new inspector at \$1,200.

Senator CURTIS. All right. Are there any more?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir. The next is a reduction of \$200 in the inspector of electrical meters, from \$1,800 to \$1,600. Then there is the insertion of a chief clerk at \$1,800, virtually taking the place of the statistical clerk omitted above.

Senator CURTIS. Where will you put him—after the inspectors?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir. In the case of the second clerk and stenographer, we suggest a reduction from \$1,400 to 1,200.

Senator CURTIS. That is the two at \$1,400?

Col. KUTZ. There are now two at \$1,400. We suggest one at \$1,400 and one at \$1,200. Then, in lieu of the two clerk-stenographers at \$700, we would like to have one at \$1,200 and one at \$1,000; and for the second messenger we suggest \$600 instead of \$720. It makes the total \$32,920, as against \$31,240.

Senator CURTIS. How many of those are you getting along without at this time? When the hearing was on before, there were three or four of these men who were not working at all.

Col. KUTZ. Our force is completely filled at the present time, except the inspector of electric meters. We have been unable to fill that position by a competent man. That is, we are unable to get a competent man for the salary that is available.

Senator CURTIS. And yet you are suggesting reducing the amount?

Col. KUTZ. We are suggesting a reduction in that amount in order to keep the total within the total allowed by the House committee; and in attempting to keep the total within that amount we made the reductions where we thought we could best afford to make them.

Senator CURTIS. I think, where we can, we ought to itemize your appropriations, instead of putting them in a lump sum.

Col. KUTZ. The commissioners have not the slightest objection to that, sir. When the Public Utilities work was started there was so little definite knowledge as to what sort of an organization would be needed in the District that Congress merely appropriated a lump sum; but our work is getting well systematized now. Four of the valuation cases have been completed and a final decision rendered.

and the two others are so nearly completed that the commissioners will be able to render a decision in 30 days, or surely within 60 days; and after that the work of the commission will be quite well systematized.

Senator CURTIS. What about the second item, \$20,000, from lines 10 to 12? You paid that expert \$110 a day last year, did you not?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. What do you need that amount of money for this year?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Of course, there was a need last year for that specific purpose. This year there is a necessity for the appropriation for the incidental expenses. Of course, all of the ordinary incidental expenses, such as stationery and stenographic work, come out of this. We will have some cases in court, and we do not know just when they will arise. We would like to have sufficient funds to meet any attack upon our valuations.

Senator CURTIS. Does not your corporation counsel try those matters?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, he does; but I mean, we have to pay expenses, and we have to have witnesses, if expert witnesses are called, and we have to pay for the stenographic work, and so on.

Senator CURTIS. You do not propose to pay them, do you, at the rate you paid this other man—\$110 a day?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. There are some experts that you can not get for less than \$100 a day. Some of them charge \$75 a day. This man that we paid \$110 a day here—which was \$100 for his services and \$10 for expenses—has been getting \$220 a day ever since he left here. Of course, you know that meant only when he worked.

Senator CURTIS. I know.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. In a period of 13 months his total compensation was a little over \$7,000.

Senator CURTIS. Of course, while he was not working here he was working somewhere else, though.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. That is probably true; but he had charge of the force that did work here, which I believe was of very material benefit to the railway companies and to the public.

Senator HALE. Did he pay that force out of his \$110 a day?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. No, sir; the force was paid separately. About \$14,000 was paid by the commission for all of the work that was done by him and his entire organization over the year, and then as to some of the work that was done at the request of the street railways by him as an employee of the commission the railway companies deposited funds with which to pay him; and they paid about \$12,000 or \$10,000, I believe it was, for the rerouting work which was done by him through us.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE.

Senator CURTIS. We will pass to the next item now.

Col. KUTZ. Under the heading "Surveyor's office," on page 10, the commissioners request that the item for the services of temporary draftsmen, computers, and laborers in line 14 be fixed at \$8,000, as allowed by the House. When the matter was presented in the spring—

Senator CURTIS. You are satisfied with that amount, are you?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. Go ahead, then. We want you to point out the matters that you are dissatisfied with. I do not want to argue out things that you are satisfied with.

CONTINGENT AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. On page 16, Mr. Chairman, in lines 1 to 8, which is the contingent fund for the coroner's office, the commissioners estimated \$6,225, and \$5,000 was granted. We would like to have, so as to avoid if possible a deficiency, the amount estimated. We have had every year a deficiency in this sum; and it is a matter which as it includes jurors' fees, witness fees, and inquest fees, is something that we can not definitely control.

Senator CURTIS. I think the record shows—I may be mistaken about it—that you had an unexpended balance of \$3,474 a year ago.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We have had a deficiency this year in the deficiency bill.

Senator CURTIS. What did you pay this year? What was the total expense this year? How much was your deficiency this year with your appropriation of \$5,000?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. I have not the deficiency hearing here.

Senator CURTIS. The Senate, after hearing you last year, gave you the \$6,225.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir. Our deficiency for this fiscal year was \$2,000.

Senator CURTIS. That will run you up to \$7,000.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. You think you need the \$6,225, do you?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir; I do.

Senator CURTIS. All right; pass on.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Back on page 15, Col. Kutz has a matter to bring to your attention.

Col. KUTZ. The commissioners would like to have added to the list of District employees, who are entitled to have telephone service in their residences at public expense, the name of the assistant superintendent of the street-cleaning division.

Senator CURTIS. We put that in before; did we not?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

Col. KUTZ. But it was not inserted by the House.

Senator CURTIS. That does not increase the appropriation?

Col. KUTZ. No, sir.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Do you desire us to call attention to the matters which were put in by the Senate before?

Senator CURTIS. Not unless you want them. If you do not want them, leave them out.

Commissioner GARDINER. But I understand that where you put them in, and we want them, we ought to call your attention to them.

Senator CURTIS. If you do not call our attention to them, then we will determine whether or not we want to put them in when we go into executive session.

Col. KUTZ. On the bottom of page 17, line 20, the commissioners ask that instead of a reappropriation of the unexpended balance of

the appropriation of \$10,000 made for the fiscal year 1910, \$10,000 be appropriated and made available for this purpose. While \$10,000 was originally appropriated, the fund has been reduced from year to year, so that now there is only about \$2,000 left.

Senator CURTIS. The last hearings show that there was \$4,000.

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir; but it has been recently reduced.

Senator CURTIS. You have \$2,000 now?

Col. KUTZ. A little over \$2,000; and that bids fair to be reduced in connection with some restoration work which we are now making at the Norfolk & Washington Steamboat Wharf. We felt that \$2,000 was too small an amount to be available for such purposes.

Senator CURTIS. You are satisfied with that item just as it is?

Col. KUTZ. No, sir; we would like to have an appropriation of \$10,000 instead of a reappropriation of the unexpended balance.

Senator CURTIS. Then how do you want that to read?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. So that it will read:

For repair of buildings owned and used by the District of Columbia, when injured by fire, \$10,000.

Senator CURTIS. You want to strike out "the unexpended balance?"

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. And do you want the words "and the unexpended balance?"

Col. KUTZ. No, sir.

Senator CURTIS. Now, wait. You strike out, then, the unexpended balance appropriation, and say, "for repair of buildings owned and used by the District of Columbia, when injured by fire, \$10,000," and strike out all the balance?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. That would increase that item about \$8,000. Is that right?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir; or a little more.

Senator CURTIS. It would increase it \$10,000?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. \$10,000, because the balance would not be available.

Senator CURTIS. Tell us a little more about that. If you got along last year and have been getting along two or three years with \$10,000 why do you want a flat appropriation of \$10,000 this year?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. In 1910, an appropriation of \$10,000 was made. Every year since 1910, or for ten years, the unexpended balance has been reappropriated.

Senator CURTIS. How much did you spend last year?

Col. KUTZ. We spent about \$2,000. Of course we got a deficiency item last year of \$51,000 to take care of an extraordinarily large loss at the Norfolk & Washington Steamboat Wharf; but as to the small matters that are paid from this, we believe that it would be better to set up a new appropriation of \$10,000, because we might have fire losses within the year that would exceed the \$2,000. In all probability we will not have any that will go over the \$10,000.

Senator CURTIS. All right; go ahead.

Commissioner GARDINER. Mr. Chairman, on page 18, on the side, you will note:

Office of the assessor: Estimated new and omitted: For lithographing and binding office maps, \$2,000.

That was discussed before this committee at the last session, and will be found on pages 50 and 51 of the Senate hearing on this bill. You gave me that. The House declined it. You gave it to me.

Senator CURTIS. How badly do you need that?

Commissioner GARDINER. We need it now just as badly as we did then.

Senator CURTIS. Do you really need it? That is the point.

Commissioner GARDINER. Absolutely, sir. We need it to straighten out the records with reference to these subdivisions. There is a full statement on pages 50 and 51 of the other hearings. I can repeat the same thing in the record now if you wish me to do it.

Senator CURTIS. No; I do not.

Commissioner GARDINER. But it appears on pages 50 and 51, a full statement; and you gentlemen allowed it.

Senator CURTIS. May I ask you to go back to page 17? Here is an item:

For rent of offices of the Recorder of Deeds, to be expended under the direction of the Superintendent of the Capitol Building and Grounds, \$6,000.

You did not say anything about that.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We know nothing about that, Senator Curtis.

Senator CURTIS. Very well, then. What is the next item?

IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS.

ASSESSMENT AND PERMIT WORK.

Col. KUTZ. On page 19, under "Improvements and repairs, assessment and permit work," the commissioners submitted an estimate of \$220,000. The House bill contains an item of \$150,000. The commissioners request that the amount be increased to \$220,000, which is the amount that they have received for this purpose for a number of years; and of course at the present unit prices, even with the same amount that they have had in the past, they will be unable to do much more than half as much work.

Senator CURTIS. How much of a surplus did you have left out of this last year?

Col. KUTZ. I think at the present time there is practically no balance in the assessment and permit work.

Senator CURTIS. Why do you need that extra amount? What is it for? What do you do with it?

Col. KUTZ. We lay all sidewalks and pave all alleys out of this assessment work. Half of the cost is assessed against abutting property, but is repaid, not into the appropriation, but into the Treasury.

Senator CURTIS. Then it all comes back?

Col. KUTZ. Half of it comes back.

Senator CURTIS. Yes; I mean, half of it.

Col. KUTZ. But even with \$220,000 we will only be able to do about half as much sidewalk work or half as much alley work as we have in the past, because the cost per square yard is almost double what it was before the war.

Senator HALE. How much of a balance have you left over from last year?

Col. KUTZ. My impression is that by the end of this month the money will be entirely exhausted, without any balance available, except some small balance that may be covered by contract for sidewalk work, which probably will not be finished before the 1st of August, but which will all be obligated by the 1st of July, and all spent by the 1st of August.

Senator CURTIS. Then you think you really need the \$220,000?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We have had \$220,000 every year since 1914, except in 1917, when we had \$240,000, and of course we estimated a very small amount when we made these annual estimates, because at that time the war was in progress, and we did not think we could get the labor and materials to do any work.

Commissioner GARDINER. \$220,000 is the least we can do with.

Senator CURTIS. Go ahead, gentlemen.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Opposite page 19 you will find pasted a list of street improvements that were estimated for and omitted by the House.

Col. KUTZ. The first of these items is Euclid Street NW., from University Place to Columbia Road, to be paved 30 feet wide, \$33,000.

Senator CURTIS. Where is that?

Col. KUTZ. That is just at the top of the Sixteenth Street hill, just north of Meridian Hill Park, and is a much-used east-and-west street, now paved with macadam; and the cost of maintenance is such as to justify, from an economic standpoint, its permanent paving.

Senator CURTIS. You want \$33,000 for that?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir. Half the cost of that will be assessed against the abutting property; but there is a demand upon the part of the local residents for the paving of this street, in addition to the fact that it is an artery of travel.

Senator CURTIS. What is the next item?

Col. KUTZ. Connecticut Avenue, Pierce Mill Road to Chapel Road, a grading item of \$39,000. That is a section of Connecticut Avenue that is not sufficiently wide to permit the permanent paving of the street or the building of any sidewalk whatever; and in submitting the item for grading this year, without any reference to paving, we would like to have the fill settle at least a year before any paving is undertaken.

Senator CURTIS. Then you do not need the money now?

Col. KUTZ. We do not need the money for paving, but this is simply for the grading itself.

I might say that we have listed these items in what we conceive to be the order of their urgency.

Senator CURTIS. I think I speak for the committee when I say that we would like to have you leave out all of this improvement that you can get along without this coming year. We want to cut down these appropriations if we can. Of course I know that for the last two or three years you have not done much street improvement; but if you can possibly get along without any of these items I wish you would say so, and those that you absolutely must have, in your opinion, I should like to have you point out. I think the committee agree with me in that proposition. If they do not, I should like to have them say so.

(The members of the subcommittee indicated their agreement.)

Senator CURTIS. Why can you not go over that list, and just point out to us the ones that you think you must have, and give us the reasons for them? If you have not got that information this morning, take this list home and get it to us to-morrow morning the first thing. In addition to that, can you not go over these items that were put in by the House, and see if any of them can be left out? There may be a greater need for some of these than there is for some of those put in by the House.

Col. KUTZ. There are three of these items—Euclid Street, Georgia Avenue, and Connecticut Avenue—that were inserted in the estimate solely on the source of economy, because what we are now paying each year for the maintenance of the present macadam surface is in excess of the interest charges, the amortization charges, and the maintenance charges of a first-class pavement on a concrete foundation. It is costing nearly 25 cents a square yard to maintain an inadequate pavement on those important highways; and even at the present prices you can put down an asphalt pavement on a concrete base, you can amortize it during the life of the pavement, 25 years, and pay interest on your investment and maintenance of the asphalt pavement during that time, for 20 cents a square yard. So that even though no part of the cost of the new pavement were assessed against the property, it would be a good business investment to put down a permanent pavement at the present time; and when you remember that half of the cost of the new pavement will be assessed against the abutting property, it simply means that instead of continuing to pay 25 cents a square yard you will be paying about 12 cents a square yard after the new pavement is down. It is simply a money proposition.

Senator CURTIS. That applies to the first three, you say?

Col. KUTZ. That applies to Euclid Street and to Connecticut Avenue, the two sections of Connecticut Avenue, and to Georgia Avenue.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The first four items.

Senator CURTIS. Georgia Avenue runs out to Walter Reed Hospital, does it not?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. It is in pretty bad shape, too.

Col. KUTZ. The next item is one for replacement with asphalt of a granite block roadway on Eleventh Street from Potomac Avenue to the Anacostia Bridge, \$32,000. The navy yard has recently acquired all the property to the west of Eleventh Street between the limits named; and Eleventh Street is a very much traveled roadway, leading to the Anacostia section of the District and to the adjoining sections in Maryland. It is a rough pavement on a gravel base, and the amount of travel on it rather than the character of the local surroundings justifies, in the opinion of the commissioners, its replacement with a smooth pavement.

Commissioner GARDINER. I should like to supplement that by saying that that street has been in that condition since I was a boy, and that is saying a whole lot. (Laughter).

Senator CURTIS. That is a long while?

Commissioner GARDINER. A long while. On the other side of the bridge, over in Anacostia and on both streets in Anacostia, it has been improved by asphalt. Pennsylvania Avenue is asphalt. Now, for

this short distance there are still those old blocks. The navy yard has extended its grounds down to Eleventh Street, and has built there, right up the approach of the bridge, a very handsome building.

Senator HARRIS. It is a very rough street. I have been over it.

Commissioner GARDINER. You know what it is. It seems too bad to have that little piece of street so rough that it is very uncomfortable to ride over it in an automobile or in a wagon, considering the fact that the Government has that property there, and considering the further fact that on both sides they have improved it, and considering the additional fact that that is the main artery for the whole of that portion of the country coming into the city. They come over the Anacostia bridge.

Senator PHIPPS. I should like to ask if it would be practicable to even up the surface of the granite blocks, using that as the foundation, and sheeting it with asphalt?

Commissioner GARDINER. I can not answer that. The Engineer commissioner can answer you that question. I do not know. That is an engineering matter.

Col. KUTZ. That has been tried, Senator; but I think the experience in Baltimore with it—I am more familiar with that any other—indicated that the old blocks did not afford an adequate foundation.

Senator PHIPPS. The reason why I asked the question was because I think it largely depends on your sub-foundation.

Senator CURTIS. And the amount of traffic. It has been very satisfactory with us out in Topeka; but we have very little traffic there, you know.

Senator PHIPPS. It has been satisfactory in New York City.

Commissioner GARDINER. I beg of you gentlemen to go over that street and ride across the bridge into Anacostia.

Senator HALE. Is that the road going over to Bolling Field?

Commissioner GARDINER. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. Suppose you pass on to the next item.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The next item is to repave with asphalt the granite block roadway of Fourteenth Street from C Street north to B street south. That is to connect up Fourteenth Street from a point just south of the District Building to the smooth portion of Fourteenth Street at about the center entrance of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. That is a very highly traveled road. It is very rough. It is almost impracticable for motor vehicles, except you go in the car tracks, which delays the traffic to the bureau; and with thousands of people who work in the bureau and with the hundreds and hundreds of cars that use that street because of the Highway Bridge to go into Virginia, I believe the time has come when that very rough old pavement should be replaced by a smooth one.

Commissioner GARDINER. I think we should say to the committee that we eliminated everything in the way of improvements that we thought could be eliminated in making our estimates.

Senator CURTIS. Of course they could get on with that road down there, though it is very rough, between the District Building and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. They have used it for a good many years. They could do it.

Col. KURTZ. Yes; it is possible to get along without it; but the question is, after having delayed our street program for practically two years, whether we are justified in going ahead at half speed, so to speak; because if the total amounts estimated by the commissioners are authorized, we will not repave in the next year more than half of the area that we have been repaving for the last three or four years.

Senator CURTIS. That is, if you had done the ordinary paving you could have done twice as much at this time as this will authorize you to do?

Col. KURTZ. Yes, sir. We had done, for several years prior to the war, twice as much in area as we will be able to do this next year if all of the money asked for by the commissioners is granted. In other works, we are only proposing to go ahead at half-speed, in view of the high prices.

Senator CURTIS. Go ahead.

Senator PHIPPS. As a matter of information, I will inquire as to the duty of the tramway lines to maintain the paving within their tracks, or for any distance outside their tracks. Is that required under the franchises they are operating under?

Col. KURTZ. They are required by law to maintain it; yes, sir.

Senator HALE. They do not do it.

Senator PHIPPS. They do not do it. Of course, I understand their financial situation; but there are some very bad places on Connecticut Avenue, and some are really becoming dangerous.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. That whole track has to be replaced.

Col. KURTZ. I gave them a written notice yesterday in connection with Connecticut Avenue. I pick out each month the worst places, and direct them to replace them within the month, and on their failure to do it, undertake to have it done by the District at their expense; but we have not held them to as high a standard during the war as we would under ordinary conditions, for various reasons.

Senator PHIPPS. That gives me the information I wanted. I apologize for interrupting.

Senator CURTIS. Go ahead. I want any members of the committee to ask any questions he wants to ask, because we need this information. The questions will be asked on the floor, and if we have all the facts we will be that much better able to handle the bill.

Col. KURTZ. The next item is replacing with asphalt the granite block roadway of D Street northwest from Sixth to Seventh. This is just one block on a very frequently used line of communication between the center of the city and the Union Station, D and E Streets being the normal lanes leading to the Union Station. The abutting property can well afford to pay half the cost of smoothing the pavement, and it will greatly improve this through route of communication.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. And it will greatly improve traffic conditions, because now, that one block of rough paving being on that street, the taxi cabs and other vehicles all go on E Street, whereas if that one rough block could be eliminated you would divide that stream of traffic and D Street would take its proportionate share.

Senator PHIPPS. Is the law such that after a permanent pavement has once been laid it may be replaced with pavement of a higher grade and the property owners assessed for one-half of the additional cost?

Col. KUTZ. "Whenever it is completely resurfaced"—that is the language of the so-called Borland amendment.

The next item is "Potomac Avenue SE., Eleventh Street to Thirteenth Street, paved, \$20,000."

This will complete a paved connection between Eleventh Street and Thirteenth Street and the Anacostia Bridge and Pennsylvania Avenue to D Street. It is now paved with merely a light macadam, and each year for several years we have been replacing this macadam with asphalt, and this stretch between Eleventh and Thirteenth will complete the work between those two terminals.

Eleventh Street NE., Eighth Street to Maryland Avenue, paved, \$17,000.

This will completely build up a residence street and will complete the paving of the north and south streets in that section of the town. It is a street faced with residences, which will, I think, be glad to pay half of the cost for the sake of having a smooth street, to take away the dust nuisance, which is almost impossible to avoid with the present macadam.

Fourteenth Street NE., E Street to G Street is an item quite similar to the Eleventh Street item, a residence street completely built up.

Nineteenth Street NW., from E Street to New York Avenue, is a short stretch of Nineteenth Street which has not been paved. There is a smooth pavement to the north of it, and the same pavement to the south of it.

Senator CURTIS. The streets in there are so arranged that that could go out for another year.

Col. KUTZ. Yes; that is faced on both sides by Government buildings, and it is largely for the comfort and convenience of the Government employees. It is not residential.

Fifteenth Street NE., B Street to E Street, a residence street of the northeast, which in recent years has been completely built up, and it has no pavement on it except the old material that has been hauled on it to make it usable. But it has practically had no money spent on it.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Completely built up on both sides.

Col. KUTZ. The next two items, for repaving with asphalt the granite block roadway of Sixth Street SW., from School Street to H Street, are placed in the estimates with the design of having a direct smooth roadway leading through the heart of the city to the steamboat wharves. If you have ever tried to make that journey in an automobile, you know that you can not make it on a smooth pavement only by going in a roundabout way. With the paving of Sixth Street within the limits mentioned, you will have a direct route to the steamboat wharves from Pennsylvania Avenue. That closes the street items.

Senator CURTIS. There is one other here, "for repaving with asphalt the granite block roadway of Sixth Street"—

Col. KUTZ. The Sixth Street item was put in in two sections, Mr. Chairman, with the expectation that if the committee approved of the project, but only wanted to undertake half of it, that they might pave only part this year and the other the next.

Senator CURTIS. The House gives you \$282,000 for this improvement work?

Col. KUTZ. Yes.

Senator CURTIS. And the amount you ask would add how much to it?

Col. KUTZ. About \$300,000.

Senator CURTIS. Would add about \$300,000?

Col. KUTZ. Yes; the House gave us a little less than half of what we asked for. I think the total was \$580,000.

(The list of street improvements referred to by Col. Kutz is here printed in the record as follows:)

List of street improvements contained in the supplemental estimates of the commissioners for the fiscal year 1920 which are not allowed by the House, arranged in their order of importance:

Euclid Street NW., University Place to Columbia Road (30 feet wide), pave, \$33,000.

Connecticut Avenue, Pierce Mill Road to Chappell Road, grade, \$39,000.

Georgia Avenue NW., Buchanan Street to Military Road (60 feet wide), pave, \$122,000.

Connecticut Avenue, Chappell Road to Chevy Chase Circle (60 feet wide), pave, \$136,000.

For repaving with asphalt the granite-block roadway of Eleventh Street SE., from Potomac Avenue to Anacostia Bridge, (55 feet wide), \$32,000.

For repaving with asphalt the granite-block roadway of Fourteenth Street West from C Street north to B Street south, (70 and 50 feet wide), \$34,000.

For repaving with asphalt the granite-block roadway of D Street NW., from Sixth to Seventh Streets, (36 feet wide), \$10,000.

Potomac Avenue SE., Eleventh Street to Thirteenth Street (40 feet wide), pave, \$20,000.

Eleventh Street NE., H Street to Maryland Avenue (32 feet wide), pave, \$17,000.

Fourteenth Street NE., E Street to G Street (30 feet wide), pave, \$15,000.

Nineteenth Street NW., E Street to New York Avenue (40 feet wide), pave, \$4,500.

Fifteenth Street NE., B Street to E Street (32 feet wide), pave, \$24,000.

For repaving with asphalt the granite-block roadway of Sixth Street SW., from School Street to H Street, (40 feet wide), \$35,000.

For repaving with asphalt the granite-block roadway of Sixth Street SW., from H to M Streets, (40 feet wide), \$28,000.

Senator CURTIS. Pass to the next item. What page?

CONSTRUCTION OF SUBURBAN ROADS.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Page 23.

Col. KUTZ. At the top of the page in line 7, the House appropriated a specific sum of \$40,000 for carrying out the highway extension act. The Senate in its bill restored the original language, the language that has been current for many years, appropriating "such sums as may be necessary for said purpose." We would like the language of the current law to be retained for this reason, that with the limitation of \$40,000 we can make no highway extension that is going to cost in excess of \$40,000, because one of the first questions that we are asked on going into court is whether there is money available to pay the damage. Now by appropriating a definite sum, there is really no drain on the Treasury because the entire cost, including the cost of the proceedings, is assessed against the property benefited, and even in the deferred payments, so far as the assessments are concerned, the deferred payments bear interest at 5 or 6 per cent.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Five per cent.

Col. KUTZ. If the limitation of \$40,000 is retained in the bill we could never undertake such a proceeding as we have just concluded in connection with the widening of Wisconsin Avenue from Massa-

chusetts Avenue to the District line, because that involves the assessment of damages of more than \$100,000, but with corresponding assessment of benefits. Now the net payment in connection with the widening of Wisconsin Avenue has been only \$50,000, but before we could go into court we had to have the sum total of \$107,000.

Senator HALE. The statement was made that the House gave you about one-half of what you asked for. The House gave \$282,000, so that they allowed you about one-third of what you asked for.

Senator CURTIS. Right on that I want to ask a question. Last year you had \$375,000 for the item of repairs—streets, avenues, and alleys, while this year you ask for \$675,000, and the House gave you \$500,000. Why the increase?

Col. KUTZ. That is asked in an effort to catch up. During the war we were simply unable to keep the streets in repair, and even at the rate of \$675,000 it will take at least two years or three years to bring up the item of maintenance to the standard that was established and lived up to before the war.

Senator HALE. Then the damage done by the severe winter a year ago was never replaced?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. No; it has never been caught up.

Col. KUTZ. The \$675,000 does not represent twice as much work as has been done heretofore, because the cost of asphalt work and paving has been almost doubled per square yard to what it was before the war, and if we are to come back to the standard that originally prevailed the full estimate of \$675,000 should be appropriated.

Senator CURTIS. Will you go back to line 7 again? In case the committee should conclude to make that a specific sum, enough to give you unlimited authority as you request, what sum would you like to have inserted instead of \$40,000?

Col. KUTZ. We would like to have \$300,000 instead of \$40,000.

Senator CURTIS. In line 7?

Col. KUTZ. Yes.

The next item on page 24, "For construction and repair of sidewalks and curbs around public reservations and United States buildings."

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Lines 9, 10, and 11.

Col. KUTZ. We have had in the past \$25,000 for the purpose. We, at the time the estimates were submitted, did not consider that we would need that amount because the war was on. Conditions have changed so much and there have been so many demands on that appropriation, that even if we take the \$25,000, the amount that we would like to have, we will be unable to do more than work which is now being asked for by the various departments of the Federal Government.

Let me cite two instances. One is the new Arlington Building. A new sidewalk is needed on the Vermont Avenue and on the H Street and the I Street sides, and the plans of the building contemplate a setting out of the curb and a narrowing of the street, and that work, alone will cost \$4,000, merely setting the new curb and placing the sidewalk, and this is the only appropriation out of which that work can be done, the comptroller having held that the building appropriation is not available for that purpose.

Then we have the other case of the new building which has been projected between Fourteenth and Fifteenth and B Street and Ohio Avenue. A new sidewalk was placed on the Fourteenth Street side of the building, but there is nothing on the B Street and Fifteenth Street sides. It is a disgrace, facing the Ellipse as it does, without a sidewalk, which would cost about \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Senator CURTIS. You need the whole \$25,000?

Col. KURTZ. We need it very badly, because there are many buildings inadequately provided with sidewalks.

Another thing which has been called to our attention is the placing of a curb and sidewalk around Grant Circle, which is now almost completely built up by the Department of Public Buildings and Grounds but it will not undertake to finish the improvements until the commissioners first place a curb and sidewalk around it. That would have to be paid out of this appropriation.

There are projects approved by the commissioners now amounting to something like \$15,000 and only about \$6,000 available to do the work, and this is exclusive of the projects which I just mentioned which have not yet been taken up by the commissioners.

Senator CURTIS. Pass to the next.

REDUCTION OF ASSESSMENT AGAINST PROPERTY ABUTTING HOWARD AVENUE.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. An item that we estimated for in our supplementary estimates, which should appear just before line 12, just before "Repairs to suburban roads," reads as follows:

That in view of the urgent necessity for laying a concrete roadway on Howard Road from Nichols Avenue to a point 1,600 feet westward therefrom in the month of November, 1918, at a cost double the average cost of laying such roadways, one-fourth of the cost of said work shall be assessed against abutting property in lieu of one-half of said cost as provided by existing law.

This was a concrete roadway that was put down to serve Bolling Field. It was put down over an old dirt roadway. This road runs through a settlement of negro home owners, and the assessment of one-half of the excessive cost that was paid then would be an injustice. If it is reduced to one-fourth, it would be about the same assessment that these poor people would get if we had assessed it in ordinary times. I hope very much that that can go in, because it is just simply to correct the grave injustice to these colored people who own their own homes over in what is a very poor section of the city.

Senator CURTIS. There is only one danger. You are starting in now, and during the next Congress other neighborhoods will come in and the next year you will have four or five items of this kind.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. This is the only road over which the District of Columbia serves a military camp, and I think it is a safe precedent to a certain extent. It is the only road of its kind in the District.

Col. KURTZ. It was not paid for out of an appropriation for street improvements. It was paid for out of the emergency fund, and I really do not believe that any precedent would be established, while to let the assessment stand would work a very great injustice.

Senator CURTIS. Did the War Department pay for it?

Col. KUTZ. It is paid for out of this special fund, as an appropriation made for paving roadways leading to Government buildings or reservations. Of course, the appropriation was contained in this bill, but under the Borland law the commissioners must make assessment, no matter what appropriation bears the cost of the work, and it was done in a hurry.

Senator CURTIS. The people there did not ask for it?

Col. KUTZ. They did not ask for it, and it was done at fully three times the normal cost of such work, so that I think they will get an adequate assessment if they pay only one-quarter. The commissioners really compromised in suggesting that their assessments be reduced one-half.

Senator PITTS. What was the total cost of the road?

Col. KUTZ. \$14,000.

Senator HARRIS. It seems to me that we ought to grant it.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Instead of collecting under the assessment \$7,000, we would get \$3,500.

Commissioner GARDINER. If that is done, there will be instances in which the assessment will be almost as much as the total value of the vacant lots along this street. That ought not to be permitted.

REPAIRS TO SUBURBAN ROADS.

Col. KUTZ. The next item is "Repairs to suburban roads," page 24, lines 12 to 14.

The commissioners have had for a number of years \$250,000 for repairs to suburban roads. The amount as allowed by the House is \$200,000, and we feel that a reduction in that item will constitute a very great mistake. Even maintaining that \$250,000 does not mean that we will be able to maintain the standard that we have in the past, on account of the great increase in the cost of labor and material, and to reduce the item would be unfortunate. Our suburban roads are none too good as they are, and they compare very unfavorably with roads of Maryland leading into the District.

Senator CURTIS. Next.

SEWERS.

Col. KUTZ. On page 26, line 8, for "Assessment and permit work, sewers," we would like to ask that the appropriation of \$50,000 be increased to \$75,000, the amount of the estimate. The amount heretofore appropriated, or appropriated the preceding year, was \$125,000, so that even though the amount is increased to \$75,000 it will be but little more than the amount available the preceding year. There is some unexpended balance.

Senator CURTIS. How much?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. While he is looking for that, we have had \$125,000 only for the last six years.

Col. KUTZ. \$76,000.

Senator CURTIS. Go ahead.

Col. KUTZ. Now, we submitted to the House the request that certain of the sewer appropriations for the current year be reappropriated and made available for the next fiscal year. Unfortunately,

we in appearing before the House committee acted on information that we then believed to be correct. We told them that we thought legislation would not be necessary, but we now ask that that be inserted because it is impossible to obligate prior to the 30th of June all of the appropriation.

Senator CURTIS. In the side slip.

Col. KUTZ. In the side slip appropriations contained in the District of Columbia appropriation act for the fiscal year 1919 for sewers, namely, for main and pipe sewers and receiving basins, for suburban sewers, and for assessment and permit work sewers.

Senator CURTIS. The Senate committee allowed you that before?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir, Senator; to make available the balance that we have been unable to obligate.

For the information of the committee, I may say that there is a balance on hand on main and pipe sewers of \$27,000 and on suburban sewers of \$142,000.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. I think it is very well to insert just at this juncture that the requirements for suburban sewers will be great because the city is now beginning a very large building development and a great many houses are being erected.

Col. KUTZ. Immediately after the item to which reference has just been made, we would like to suggest the insertion of a new item, not included in the old bill nor estimated for, and that is that the unexpended balance of the appropriation for suburban sewers for 1917 be reappropriated and continued available for the fiscal year 1920. This balance of \$51,000 is all obligated under an existing contract, and the work is in progress, but the work will, however, not be completed by June 30, and under the covering-in act, any unexpended balance would revert to the Treasury unless we appropriate it.

Senator CURTIS. Have you that item prepared?

Col. KUTZ. I have that item prepared; yes, sir. It reads as follows: "The unexpended balance of the appropriation for suburban sewers, 1917, is reappropriated and continued available for the fiscal year 1920."

Senator CURTIS. What is the next item?

STREETS.

Col. KUTZ. Lines 20 to 23, page 27.

Senator CURTIS. I thought that all went out. It is the law now, is it not?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. It went out in the Senate—

Senator CURTIS. It is the deficiency, is it not?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We would like to have that language omitted, as the Senate did omit it in the last bill.

Senator CURTIS. Why?

Col. KUTZ. A contrary provision is included in the deficiency bill, both by the Senate and the House, which is now pending; that is, the deficiency bill provides a contrary method, and this would repeal the legislation in the deficiency bill.

Senator HALE. What does the deficiency bill provide?

Col. KUTZ. We just want to strike out those four lines.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Under the deficiency bill if this is stricken out the money that we collect for the disposal of this refuse

would be paid to the appropriation, whereas now we would have to pay all the expenses, because the money goes into the Treasury and not into this appropriation.

Senator CURTIS. Next.

Col. KUTZ. Mr. Chairman, we would like——

Senator CURTIS. Let me say that when I say "Next," if some Senator wants to ask a question, let him go ahead and ask it. I have been over this, but some of the Senators may not know as much about it as I do.

Senator HALE. I want to ask one question. On page 28, line 9, "Bathing beach."

Col. KUTZ. May I take up a matter before that?

Senator HALE. Very well.

Col. KUTZ. The commissioners would like to present for consideration the question of repealing the provision of the existing law which permits the transportation within the District of Columbia of table refuse, including meat, bread, and vegetables not in a decayed or decomposed condition, to be fed to poultry, pigs, or other live stock, to such places where such feeding is not prohibited by law.

This legislation was enacted during the war when there was great need of food conservation and for encouraging in every way the development of hogs. Now, we believe that it is not so necessary, and as a matter of practice it is resulting greatly to our financial detriment, because under that legislation private collectors of garbage are going through the city and collecting what might be called the cream of the business; that is, going to hotels and restaurants and picking up the garbage that is rich in grease and leaving that part that they do not want for the District collector to take, and they are going through private alleys, and as a result we get complaints that garbage collectors go around and take part of the garbage and do not take it all, or look in the can and perhaps not take any. These complaints are made against private collectors, over whom we have no control. They are simply combing the city of the valuable part of this refuse, and leaving the city to get the balance, and we are getting in this reduction very much less than we ever got before.

We have no objection to hog feeding, and it may be advisable to dispose of all the garbage of the District to a contractor who will use it in that way, and the commissioners have that under consideration, and are conducting a little experiment at the Home for the Aged and Infirm, where we are feeding 200 hogs.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The effect of repealing that mandatory provision would still leave on the statute books the language of section 9.

Col. KUTZ. Not if it is put in in the way I suggested. The suggested phraseology is this:

That the provision of existing law providing that every person, corporation, association, or institution in the District of Columbia shall be permitted to transport in closed metal containers from the place of origin to places outside of the District of Columbia any table refuse, including meat, bread, and vegetables, not in a decayed or decomposed condition, to be fed to poultry, pigs, or other live stock at any place where such feeding is not prohibited by law, is hereby repealed.

I think the justification for putting that in the bill is that it will reduce the cost of the service to the District and the United States. It is legislation which will be clearly in the interest of economy so far as the District is concerned.

This specific legislation was contained in section 9 of the act approved May 6, 1918, No. 143, Sixty-fifth Congress.

Senator PHIPPS. Is it not a fact that in some cities contractors pay large amounts of money for the privilege of collecting the garbage and handling it by contract over a period of years?

Col. KUTZ. No, sir; I think not. In Baltimore the city is now collecting the garbage and is selling it to a contractor who is feeding it to pigs, but the cost of the collection service exceeds the amount received from the contractor, and that has been our experience here. We are now taking the garbage to Cherry Hill and reducing it and selling the grease, and selling the fertilizer, and are making a small profit as a result of the reduction, but not enough. The cost of the collection greatly exceeds what we could sell it to the contractor for.

Senator PHIPPS. Of course, garbage and ashes or other refuse are kept separate?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir; we have kept them separate.

Senator PHIPPS. And not handled in the same way. About what was your recovery from garbage in round figures for this present fiscal year?

Col. KUTZ. May I insert that in the record?

Senator PHIPPS. I would like to have it at any time.

Col. KUTZ. I have a complete statement in tabular form, but I do not have it with me, and I would rather not make an uncertain answer.

Commissioner GARDINER. The best price that we ever had during the war, just a year ago or thereabouts, was when some gentlemen who were feeding hogs up around Boston offered us \$40,000 a year for five years for our garbage supply, delivered on cars ready for shipment.

Senator CURTIS. You were to deliver it?

Commissioner GARDINER. We were to collect it and put it on the cars. Now, in Baltimore they have a very good contract. That is a contract which reads to the effect that the contractor will pay per ton two and a half times the selling price of hogs per pound.

BATHING BEACH.

Senator HALE. Taking up in line 9 the question of the bathing beach, I understand that a man was drowned there the other day.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. That is the tidal basin, which comes under the sundry civil bill, under the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds.

Senator HALE. Where is this bathing beach?

Col. KUTZ. East of Seventeenth Street. It is southeast of Seventeenth and B Streets.

Senator HALE. The same question would come up another way.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. These are only pools anyway.

Senator HALE. But they are deep enough to drown, and I heard some fault found with the commissioners because they do not have any pulmometer there, and the man's life could have been saved if there had been. As a matter of fact there ought to be a pulmometer at every beach.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. At the Tidal Basin, that bathing beach, the water is very deep. At the bathing beach the deepest water is 7 feet, or 6 feet 8 inches, and that only for a few feet at the end of

the pool, and the guards are there at all times. The pool is only 95 feet long, by 45 feet wide, and the guards are at the edge all the time. I have never known of anybody getting into trouble who has not been taken out. The Tidal Basin is an extensive affair.

Commissioner GARDINER. That is not under our supervision. Is there a pulmometer there?

Senator HALE. The papers said there was not.

Commissioner GARDINER. That was the Tidal Basin.

Senator HALE. There is none at this place either, is there?

Commissioner GARDINER. I do not know, but I do not believe there would be any need for it because we have guards on duty at all times that they bathe. This is only a small place and the guards are constantly on the watch. Our bathing beach is in a large measure for children, and we have these instructors there. You gentlemen remember only the other day having this deficiency. Last year we ran out of money, and we said to the guards, "We can not promise you your wages, but we will try to get it for you," and we did get it through.

Senator HALE. The other place is not under your jurisdiction?

Commissioner GARDINER. No.

Senator HALE. Under whose jurisdiction is it?

Commissioner GARDINER. The War Department, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds.

Col. KUTZ. If I may revert for a moment to the item on page 27, "Disposal of city refuse," the deficiency act contained an item providing that upon the expiration of any contract for the collection of garbage, ashes, and miscellaneous refuse, the commissioners would be authorized to take over and perform the service as a municipal function. Now, the contract for the collection of ashes expires on June 30 this year, and the commissioners are very anxious to take advantage of the authority granted them in the deficiency bill by taking over this ash-collection service. It has not been satisfactory in the past, and we believe that we can do it with practically no increase in cost and with very much more satisfaction to the people, but in order to do it, we will have to acquire either the present contractor's plant or acquire another plant—that is, horses, wagons, about 70 in number—and we will also have to provide additional stable facilities. The estimated cost of those additional facilities is something like \$35,000, and we would like to have the appropriation of \$621,000 increased by that amount, to enable us to take over the ash-collection service.

Senator CURTIS. \$35,000, you say?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. You need that amount to take that over?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir; that is an estimate.

Senator CURTIS. Any additional language required?

Col. KUTZ. I think all the necessary authority is contained in the deficiency bill, which gives the commissioners the power upon the expiration of the contract to take it over, and with the appropriation increased we have the necessary authority to expend it.

Senator CURTIS. If you do not take it over, of course the money would not be used?

Col. KUTZ. No, sir; we would have to readvertise and continue the contract method. With the hope that Congress would give us the

necessary authority to take it over, and give us the funds to do it with, we have refrained from advertising for bids.

Senator CURTIS. What does it cost now per year?

Col. KUTZ. The contract price was \$78,000, and in the deficiency bill authority was given to adjust that contract for the reason that it had been executed 14 months in advance of the time of beginning, but at a time when conditions were very different from those that prevailed during the life of the contract.

PLAYGROUNDS.

Commissioner GARDINER. The next item on page 28, line 13, playgrounds. We estimated for \$50,000 maintenance and were allowed \$35,000, Mr. Chairman. My defense of that appears on pages 75 and 76 in the last hearing, but I wish to add to that now by saying that it is very much more needed now, the full amount, than at that time, as it has developed. For instance, one of our playgrounds—this covers the maintenance and upkeep of the playgrounds—one of our playgrounds was located at First and New York Avenue. During this recent heavy rain the outside of the ground, the fence which surrounds it leading to the street, has become in such a condition that it has washed out under it. It is about 10 feet higher than the sidewalk. We have had an estimate made, which was very large, and I went up and looked at it Monday afternoon, and concluded that it was not necessary to make the total amount of improvements that they asked for, but it is necessary to do something with the whole outside of that playground in order to keep the walls from washing down and letting children hurt themselves.

The north entrance has a board walk, and one of the steps fell in and a little child was nearly killed the other day by falling down in this place. This is going to require considerable money to fix that and the additional cost of everything will make it necessary to have \$60,000.

Senator CURTIS. What is the name of the playground?

Commissioner GARDINER. First and New York Avenue, adjoining Sibley Hospital on the east. If you go on the north side especially you will find a very bad condition there. The paving company says it is necessary to concrete a wall there. I do not believe so.

Senator CURTIS. Have you a copy of the amendment, or do you just want the amount increased?

Commissioner GARDINER. Just increased.

Senator CURTIS. No special language?

Commissioner GARDINER. No special language.

Now there is an item of importance connected with the playgrounds that I desire to call your attention to. At Fourteenth and Park Road there, some 10 years ago, Mr. William F. Mattingly, loaned the District for playground purposes a large piece of ground, and we have used that for some years. Recently Mr. Mattingly died and his estate is being settled up, and within the last 10 days we have received notice from his executors that it had been sold, and that we would have to vacate under our agreement. We had agreed that we would vacate on notice, and we understand that some interests have purchased it for an apartment house. That leaves us right in the thickly settled part of the town, near all those big apartment houses, with no place for the children to play except on the street.

Senator CURTIS. Where is that?

Commissioner GARDINER. At Fourteenth and Park Road, just across from the Arcade Market, it being on the southeast corner of Fourteenth and Park Road.

Now there has been submitted to us a proposition to purchase a tract of land down near the Zoo, west of Sixteenth Street, and just north of Columbia Road.

Senator HALE. Would that take care of the same locality?

Commissioner GARDINER. It would in some measure, but we feel it is a little near the Zoo Park, and a little too far from the central part, and the cost is \$150,000.

Senator CURTIS. Is it that big, vacant property there right off Sixteenth Street near Harvard?

Commissioner GARDINER. Running in there, yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. It is several blocks from the Zoo?

Commissioner GARDINER. It is several blocks from the Zoo. Yesterday we had another proposition which we thought—all this being referred to the superintendent of playgrounds—would meet the situation exactly, but just as I was leaving here Mrs. Rhodes said that the agent was mistaken when he offered it for \$75,000, but that it could be purchased for \$150,000. It is just one square west of Fourteenth and Park Road, and a beautiful site.

Senator CURTIS. What do they want for the place on Sixteenth Street?

Commissioner GARDINER. \$150,000. I might say that the place is all right so far as its value is concerned, as shown by the assessor.

Senator HALE. Have you tried to purchase the Mattingly property from the person who bought it?

Commissioner GARDINER. We have not, but we understand that the man who purchased it bought it with a view of building an apartment house or a moving-picture theater, and had his plans prepared.

Senator HALE. Would that be a more valuable piece of property now than the other?

Commissioner GARDINER. I doubt; but it is much smaller.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. It is more expensive per foot, but much smaller.

Commissioner GARDINER. There are 600 children, Mrs. Rhodes says, who use this playground daily. There must be something done at once.

Senator CURTIS. How many playgrounds have you now?

Commissioner GARDINER. I can give you that. I answered that question before. It is in the record of the last hearing, page 76 of your former hearing. We have 16 now. We do not own all of those 16, and I can not tell you how many of those 16 we own.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We own three playgrounds.

Commissioner GARDINER. They have been loaned to us just as this parcel of land was loaned before by a public-spirited citizen who had vacant property and desired to hold it for investment purposes, but I think I should say to you gentlemen that the time has come when the value of property has reached the stage where people are selling. There is very little vacant property, and few available sites for playgrounds. Within the last few months we had loaned to us a very nice piece of property in the Northeast. Within the month the owner died and his estate will be settled and we will be cut off.

Senator PHIPPS. In considering the acquisition of property, would it be advisable in any way to work under cover? For instance, if the commissioners could consider available sites without being known in the matter, make up their minds as to the one they thought satisfactory, and then delegate some man to obtain an option on the property, without disclosing the name of his principal, say that he was buying it for his own use—to illustrate, here is a case in point.

My son was trying to acquire a residence recently in Denver. The agent was told the price for the property. In order to know that the place was suitable my son went to inspect it. He was known to the man in charge. The agent went to the owner saying, "Now you have fixed this price on the property. It is satisfactory to my client and he will take it." "I know who he is now, and he will pay \$10,000 more for it," and my son sent word back that he would not take it at any price. That is the way when an owner desiring to dispose of property knowing that it is for some individual who can afford to pay for it, or for public purposes, their price increases, even more so if it is for public purposes.

Commissioner GARDINER. It is the policy of the commissioners never to show their hands, and you will notice that in my first statement I did not refer to any particular property until I was asked.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. But we can not take options.

Commissioner GARDINER. Unless there is a sum of money appropriated. If you gentlemen will give us a sum of money for the purpose of purchasing playgrounds——

Commissioner BROWNLOW. There is a specific provision which prevents any officer of the Government taking an option directly or indirectly.

Commissioner GARDINER. But if you gentlemen will give us a sum of money to purchase a property in lieu of the one vacant, we of course will do the best we can to get it for the least money possible.

Senator HALE. There is no great expense in equipping a playground?

Commissioner GARDINER. We have playground equipment which must be put aside until we acquire a site. This last site, which we thought we had acquired up until this morning, was a valuable site, and was just what we wanted, but to jump the price up \$75,000 is prohibitive.

Senator CURTIS. Take up the next item. We will want to stop at 12 o'clock and we will meet again at 2, if desired. We will go on for 10 minutes unless you want to stop now.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We can get down to public schools in two or three minutes.

Senator CURTIS. Go ahead.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Page 31, item beginning on line 1 "For placing wires of fire-alarm, telegraph, police-patrol, and telephone service underground in existing conduits, including cost of cables, terminal boxes, and posts, connections, etc.," we would like to have that increased from \$3,500 to \$5,000, which is the amount that we used to have. We estimated for \$7,000, but all of that work has so increased in price that we would like to have that increased to \$5,000.

Senator CURTIS. Did you have any surplus last year?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Last year we could not do a great deal of work.

Senator CURTIS. Is that why we reduced it?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The reason for the surplus was because we could not get material.

Senator CURTIS. Do you remember how much surplus you had?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. I do not. I will put it in the record.

In the next item "For extension and relocation of police-patrol system" we would like \$3,000 instead of \$1,000.

Senator CURTIS. You only had \$2,500.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We would like to have it \$3,000 in order that we can carry out necessary work of extension. It was also cut down because building was not going on—no new developments—and we could not get material or labor for that sort of work.

Senator CURTIS. You had a surplus last year?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. How much?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. It does not appear. I will insert that.

We have done very little work for three years and are really behind, and we want \$3,000 so that we can begin to catch up with necessary extensions.

Senator CURTIS. Next?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. On page 32, line 5, "For extension and relocation of fire-alarm system, including purchase of new boxes." What we would like is our estimate of \$7,000 instead of the appropriation of \$5,000 for extension and relocation of fire-alarm system. Because of the cost we have not done work for two or three years, and on account of the conditions prevailing we would like to be able to catch up.

Senator CURTIS. Increased cost of material?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Increased cost of material.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Now, that brings us down to public schools, which we may pass over. It is not defended by the commissioners.

Senator CURTIS. We had up last year—you made no estimate for the increase of salaries—and the Senate increased the salaries on page 34 from \$1,000 in line 2 to \$1,200 and \$950 to \$1,000 and the other \$1,000, making the basic salary \$1,000. Have you people anything to say about small salaries for school-teachers?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Nothing.

Senator CURTIS. You estimated more than that?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We submitted an estimate that was prepared for the board of education, but the commissioners submitted our own estimates for very much needed increases in salaries, which we believe are needed just as much as by the school-teachers.

Senator CURTIS. We made some increases in some of the smaller scales here and there.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes; a few, but not in a general way.

Senator CURTIS. These are the only increase in salaries the school-teachers would get, less than a thousand, except in one case.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Of course, they get longevity. We want the school teachers paid. It is impossible to carry on the school system without an adequate provision for salaries for school teachers who do not get enough to live on. I have not gone, and I assume none of the commissioners have gone, into details concerning those matters, because the board of education will have to do that.

The next item is on page 49, the Metropolitan police.

Senator CURTIS. Now that is liable to take some little time, so we had better stop until 2 o'clock.

Thereupon the committee at 12 noon took a recess until 2.15 o'clock p. m.)

AFTER RECESS.

The committee met at 2.15 o'clock p. m., pursuant to the taking of recess.

Senator CURTIS. Let us go on with the bill.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Col. KUTZ. Page 42, line 15. The commissioners submitted an estimate of \$210,000; \$190,000 was allowed by the House. The commissioners would urge that the full amount of the estimate be appropriated. The previous appropriation was \$175,000, but at the present prices we will not be able to do for \$210,000 as much as we were doing prior to the war with \$150,000, and our schools are not in the condition that we should put them in. We called upon the board of education for a list of the repairs indicated for each building in the order of urgency, and to these repairs, which largely refer to the interiors of the building, we must add exteriors and roofing and heating systems, and the sum total of the estimates in every year that I have been at the building, starting in 1914, have doubled the amount of money available.

Each year it is a question of doing the most important thing, and when you consider that the school buildings represent an investment of more than \$15,000,000, I think that the \$210,000 appropriated for repairs and maintenance is a very small percentage.

Senator CURTIS. What is the next?

NEW CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Page 44. There is an item on the slip on the right-hand side for the complete equipment of the machine shops of the New Central High School, \$68,000. We spoke of that in the former hearing. The Central High School is completely equipped for carrying on a mixed course there with the exception of these machine shops, and we believe that the lathes and other machinery that is necessary for this equipment should be provided.

Senator CURTIS. Would it cost much more to buy it now than a year from now?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. It costs more now than it would have cost two years ago. Whether prices will go down very much in the next year or two I doubt. Beyond that I am not a prophet.

Senator CURTIS. You want that because you want to instruct the students in machine shop work?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

Col. KUTZ. This item is very urgently recommended by the Board of Education in a letter to the commissioners.

Senator CURTIS. How many pupils are attending that school?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Attending the whole Central High School?

Senator CURTIS. Yes.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. About 1,000 boys and about 1,500 girls as near as I can remember, roughly. You see that is the only high school in the city where you can take an academic, technical, and business course, or a mixed course. At McKinley you can take a technical course, at Business High School a business course, and an academic course at Western or Eastern. The idea of this school is to combine all of those various courses, and all of the equipment for every branch of every course is already installed with the exception of the machine shops.

Commissioner GARDINER. We eliminated that in the original estimates because we thought it was high, but our attention was called to it and we investigated it particularly and came to the conclusion that we would ask this committee to give it to us.

Senator CURTIS. All right, what is the next?

Col. KUTZ. For the information of the committee, I would like to say in connection with the four school items page 46, the commissioners selected out of approximately 10 building construction items that had already been provided for by Congress, four that they considered more important than the others, and requested authority to increase the limit of cost by 50 per cent and these four items are listed on page 46. Now I want to say that at the present scale of prices we will be unable to go ahead on these four items, but our reason for asking only a 50 per cent increase was the hope that we might go ahead during the fiscal year, at a point midway between prewar prices and present prices.

Senator CURTIS. That is line 7 to line 25?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir; two white schools and two colored schools, which have been authorized and are the most urgent of the 12 or 13 appropriated for, but all of which we can not build.

Col. KUTZ. Now we have one other item to which we would like to call attention.

Senator CURTIS. What page?

Col. KUTZ. That comes in a little later.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The next item we wish to call attention to is page 49, the Metropolitan Police.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Senator CURTIS. What line?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Line 13, where the act now provides additional compensation for 30 privates detailed for special service in the detection and prevention of crime, our estimate was for 40.

Senator CURTIS. Why do you need that to give additional protection at this time?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. That comprises our central detective force, and we need 40 men instead of 30. The bill as it passed the House gives us 35, but we would like 5 additional to get the 40 because of the special need for detective service at this time. The detectives are very much overworked. We have not enough to cover the needs of the situation.

Senator CURTIS. Go ahead.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We would like very much also on that slip on the right-hand of page 49; we would like to have that additional captain, \$2,000.

Senator CURTIS. That is the second?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The second item, to be in charge of traffic, in order that the traffic policemen may be taken out from under the control of the captains of the several precincts, and consolidated under a captain who would be the head of a traffic squad. Every considerable city in the United States now has a separate traffic squad, with its separate officers.

Senator CURTIS. The present commanders now have charge?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The present commanders now have charge of the various ones that come within their various precincts. I regard that as of special importance because we can not get efficient service in view of the traffic situation here unless we do have that under a separate captain who instructs them in that particular line.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. That also would carry with it—a little further down we are asking an appropriation for three lieutenants and three sergeants. I would like to have one of those lieutenants—we only insist upon one—and the three sergeants. The captain, his lieutenant, and the three sergeants would constitute the supervising force of the traffic squad. So I am reducing the request for three lieutenants to one, and asking for the three sergeants.

Now, the two other items there that I would like to call special attention to are the two telephone clerks and the five drivers. We have five more automobiles for which drivers are not provided, and we would like to have those two telephone clerks because of the onerous duties of the clerks who take the telephone messages. They are not merely operators, but they take every message or complaint that comes into the police system. They take it down in writing or transfer it to the proper person and note what hour it comes in and the records are very important.

Senator CURTIS. Can you get that kind of a girl for \$900?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. With the \$240 added we will hope to. We put them in at \$900. The present salary is that. We have asked in a separate bill for an increase for all of them.

One other matter in the police department is that the House granted an increase for the mounted men to 30 captains, lieutenants, sergeants, and privates, and one inspector.

Senator CURTIS. Which line?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The second part of the printed slip, and it occurs again on page 50, line 10, where it was increased from \$360 to \$480 a year. The mounted men absolutely can not furnish their horses at the present price of feed for \$360 a year. They are running behind.

Senator CURTIS. How much should that be?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. \$480.

Senator CURTIS. We gave you \$480.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The next item is on page 51, line 10, contingent expenses of the police department, we estimated at \$50,000.

Senator CURTIS. We gave you \$45,000.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. You gave us \$45,000. On account of the very great increase of everything that goes into that appropriation and the great increase of work I believe that \$50,000 should be given in order that more strict allotments can be made and under no circumstances incur a deficiency during the present fiscal year.

Senator CURTIS. How much of a surplus have you this year?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. It is practically exhausted. I know we have been omitting a great deal of stationery and printing this month because of fear of exceeding the appropriation.

Senator CURTIS. You had \$30,000.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes.

Senator CURTIS. We gave you \$45,000 and you think you need \$50,000?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The next item is in the fire department.

Senator CURTIS. What page?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Fifty-three.

Senator HALE. One minute; I would like to ask on page 52, line 9, about the provision for six guards at \$600 each, and afterwards it speaks of three matrons at \$720 each. Is not that \$600 each rather small for the guards?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. I would like to see that increased to \$720. It is too small. And the janitor.

Senator PHIPPS. This carries the bonus of \$240?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. What other did you say, if we increased it to \$720, should be increased?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The janitor.

Senator CURTIS. From \$600 to \$720?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. I do not know how the other members of the committee feel, but I do not see how anybody lives in this town on \$720 a year.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. There are a great many others throughout the bill.

Senator CURTIS. I know there are, and they ought to be increased.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The very next item there, harbor patrol, contains two deck hands at \$600 each. These are men on duty 12 hours a day fishing people out of the water.

In the fire department, on page 54, line 12, where the estimate of contingent expenses was \$28,000, and we were allowed \$25,000, I would like to ask that that be increased to the amount of the estimate of this year. We have expended \$27,573—\$2,573 more than the appropriation—with one month's and a portion of another month's bills yet to be paid. This is cared for in a deficiency bill. For the

last two months we have not been able to furnish soap, brushes, and other supplies. During the next year, on account of new motor apparatus, we will have to supply three gasoline tanks, at an estimated cost of \$350 each, and in order to avoid a deficiency we would like to have that amount.

Referring to the slips printed on page 54, we would like to urge the concrete and frame drill tower, which the Senate allowed before.

Senator CURTIS. \$10,000?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. \$10,000; and I personally believe that the motor apparatus will not be greatly reduced in price for several years and that we ought to have the full amount of motor apparatus that we estimated for, instead of practically half, as was given us.

Commissioner GARDINER. My information is the same, and it is based upon the evidence that we have from men that are supposed to know.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The next item is the health department on page 55; on the slip pasted there estimated 6 sanitary inspectors at \$1,200 each, 4 food inspectors at \$1,400 each, and 1 assistant poundmaster. Our force of sanitary and food inspectors is not sufficient to keep up in the work that is required to be done. While the men are vigilant and they are bringing a great many cases, we constantly get reports, "Why am I jerked up about this thing while somebody down the street has not been disturbed?" There are not enough inspectors to take care of the situation. The sanitary inspectors have to do with plumbing and nuisances of that kind and the food inspectors of the food supply. An assistant poundmaster is badly needed. The poundmaster from the nature of the case is a great deal of the time out on the streets.

The next items to which I wish to call your attention are on page 59, the first instance, lines 3 and 4, for maintenance of one motor vehicle for use in the pound service, \$360. It is impossible to maintain that machine for that amount of money. We estimate \$600, and we should have it. The last year it was necessary to go into the emergency fund to keep it in the service. That is the dog wagon.

Commissioner GARDINER. You increase the amount to \$5 to keep the dogs and we will be able to take care of this increase of maintenance.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. On the same page, in the items estimated, new and omitted, we would like to urge the retention in the bill of \$15,000, an estimate for the Washington Diet Kitchen.

Senator CURTIS. That the Senate put in.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. That the Senate put in, and on the other slip on the page—

Senator CURTIS. We have an estimate for that. You need not refer to that.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. One motor ambulance at a cost not exceeding \$2,500, and \$600 for maintenance. We need a motor ambulance in the contagious disease service very badly. We have to use a horse-drawn ambulance to take all of these people to the Washington Asylum and Jail, and to the quarantine station and the smallpox hospital, and it is a long drive.

Senator CURTIS. \$3,100.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

EMERGENCY FUND.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. On page 63, line 14, the commissioners would like to have the emergency fund increased from \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Senator CURTIS. The Senate gave you \$10,000 on that.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. But this gives a brief statement why. We can not tell, of course, what needs and purposes will be best met by that. That amount changes every year. That amount is to be spent for an entirely different purpose.

Senator CURTIS. What did you use it for last year.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Last year, the present year, it is practically exhausted.

Mr. TWEEDALE. Yes.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. It was used a great deal the last two years to meet the necessary expenses in connection with the enforcement of the selective-service system.

Senator CURTIS. You will be out of that this time.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We will be out of that this time. It is only for the purpose of safety. Of course, we could ask for a deficiency.

Senator CURTIS. We are going to cut off all deficiencies which you do not ask for.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. I do not mean an actual deficiency. We are trying our best. That is the reason I am asking for this contingent and maintenance fund, so that there may not be a deficiency next year, something the commissioners very much desire.

CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS.

The next item is on page 66, and there is another item that we would like to have, that on the slip, motor ambulance for the Board of Charities, and to have the language in line 11 changed so as to provide for the maintenance of two ambulances, \$1,200, instead of one.

Senator CURTIS. That is, if you buy that one.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. But if you do not buy that, then you do not want that addition.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. No.

REFORMATORIES AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS—HOSPITAL.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. On page 67, in line 18 of the item, in order to avoid a deficiency we would like to have our estimate of \$82,000 instead of \$75,000.

Senator CURTIS. How much surplus did you have this year? You had \$70,000.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We had a deficiency up until June 9 of something around \$6,000; nearly \$7,000.

Senator CURTIS. And you have expended then about \$76,000 the last year.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Well, of course, the month of June will be added to that. It will be \$78,000 then, nearly.

Senator CURTIS. You think they will need \$82,000?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, I believe we will.

Commissioner GARDINER. You see our jail is full all the time.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Now there is an item on that same page for the Washington Asylum and Jail for the purchase of apparatus for operating room, including Lumbard's airway, gas-oxygen apparatus, and electric ether suction apparatus.

Senator CURTIS. That is \$350.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

Senator HARRIS. It has been the experience in other cities where they have prohibition that the jails are not so crowded. What do you expect on that matter?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The jail here is a detention jail for persons—the workhouse is not as crowded as it formerly was—and it is a jail for the detention of prisoners awaiting trial, and those who have been convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary, pending their transfer.

Commissioner GARDINER. It was said at the former hearing that the reason the jail was so full was that the courts are so far behind that they are not able to try them, and I think this committee put in a provision for an additional judge, didn't it?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The Judicial Committee reported it, but it was not passed.

Commissioner GARDINER. This committee proposed it in here. They wrote in a provision.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Was it in as it passed the Senate?

Senator CURTIS. I think it was, but I am not sure.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes. You asked me to prepare a bill and I did so.

Senator CURTIS. It may have gone out on a point of order, but I thought it was in.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. It was stricken out in the full committee according to my recollection. The subcommittee put it in.

SUPPORT OF PRISONERS.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. On page 68, line 13, the item for support of prisoners, we asked for \$90,000. We were granted \$75,000. This year, with most of June still to go, we have a deficiency of \$28,000, which will, by the end of the month, amount to \$30,000, so that it actually will have cost \$95,000 for this year, and we ask under our estimate \$90,000 in order not to again create a deficiency.

TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS.

In the next item on line 17, the item for transportation of prisoners, we would like to have our estimate of \$3,000 instead of \$2,000, because of the increased cost for the maintenance of vans, horses, etc.

HOME FOR AGED AND INFIRM.

The next item is the Home for Aged and Infirmary, on page 69. We would like to insert a provision for increasing the existing appropriation which was not estimated for.

Senator CURTIS. Increase?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Increasing the existing appropriation for another building. Col. Kutz has the language here.

Senator CURTIS. Let us hear it.

Col. KUTZ. In the appropriation act for the fiscal year 1917, the one that was approved in September, 1916, there was an item for a colored women's ward at the Home for the Aged and Infirm, and \$26,000 was appropriated for that, but like the schoolhouse that we asked for, there is an increase of 50 per cent of the limit of cost, and an increase of appropriation of \$13,000. An item inserted between lines 14 and 15 reading as follows, we feel will accomplish the purpose:

For an additional amount for extension of colored women's ward, \$13,000.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. I would like to say as to the necessity for the building, that the colored women's ward has been overcrowded for several years. It was built to accommodate 65 women. The number at the home to-day in the summer time is 81. Ordinarily in the wintertime it goes up to about 100. The highest number last winter was 102. There is no other part of the institution where these colored women can be housed and cared for, and during the winter months, especially, the place is so crowded in the dormitories that it is a very bad insanitary condition. This home for the aged was opened in 1906, and no addition has been made to the women's quarters during that time. The men's quarters were enlarged four or five years ago by the addition of a wing.

Senator HALE. How many inmates do you have?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. About 300, something over 300, Senator Hale. Between 85 and 100 colored women. Let me see if I can find that.

Now, there is a place where we have a lot of low salaries. They get board, but even at that we have not been able at the Home of Aged and Infirm to keep people during the last few years. It is almost impossible to keep competent people.

Senator CURTIS. Do you think any of those people could do any work?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. A little work, some of the men, such as driving a wagon. The inmates are of the character that is very accurately represented by its name. The people are very old or very infirm, and very few of them can do any work beyond tidying up the dormitories and a few of the men are able to drive wagons.

Senator CURTIS. They get \$240 in addition to that and their board and living?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes.

Commissioner GARDINER. We can not keep them. We are having trouble all the time.

MEDICAL CHARITIES—TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. On page 73, an item in line 2 for \$50,000, the item for provisions, fuel, etc., for Tuberculosis Hospital. We would like to have you increase that estimate to \$55,000. We had \$45,000 last year and the deficiency was \$2,000.

Senator HARRIS. How many patients have you there; how many last year?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. About 130.

Senator HARRIS. How many this year?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. About the same. It is entirely a question of the increased cost of food, and the special food that is particularly needed at the Tuberculosis Hospital.

Senator CURTIS. Did you have a deficiency last year?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. How much?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. I will have to put that in the record.

Senator CURTIS. Could you give me about the amount?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. About \$5,000; but I am not certain, there were so many.

Senator CURTIS. I think it was about \$5,000, because they gave \$50,000.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. And the next item of repairs and improvements to the grounds, that should be \$3,000 instead of \$2,000. We have had several complaints about the condition of the grounds, but we have not had enough money to look after the work. The building is now about 10 years old, and the repairs, necessary repairs of buildings and grounds, keep increasing as the building gets older. We would like to have that increased to \$3,000.

GALLINGER MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The next item, the Gallinger Municipal Hospital. With respect to that, all I care to say is that I trust the Senate will do what it did before.

Senator CURTIS. We reduce that to \$1,500,000.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The limit of cost, and made no increase in the appropriation.

Senator HALE. What does that figure indicate?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. That is the House provision.

Senator HALE. You are going to limit it to a million and a half?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We did that before.

Col. KUTZ. \$500,000 was not intended at any time to complete the whole of the building, only a part of it.

CHILD-CARING INSTITUTIONS.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. I would like also to call the attention and ask that the Senate give us under the Board of Children's Guardians, as they did before, a provision for temporary shelter, including maintenance and rent, in the language that was included in the House before, that item of \$11,620 which occurs on the slip pasted opposite.

Senator CURTIS. You say the House gave you that?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The Senate. The reason for asking that is in order that the Board of Children's Guardians may have an opportunity to take the children before they place them in an institution or in a private home, to take the children for two or three or four days and get them cleaned up and give time to find the best home for the particular child, something that has not been provided here and something that we think is very important. It is very strongly urged by the Board of Children's Guardians and by the Board of Charities.

The children now are sometimes kept overnight in the House of Detention, but ordinarily when a child is committed to it by the courts they have to find a place at once, and if they could be provided a place to keep the child two or three days, they would get a better home for the child if he had a chance to be deloused and cleaned up, and get cleaner clothes. The child would then get a better family to take it than if it was in the dirty condition in which it has to be sent out now.

SALARIES.

On line 17, \$1,800, we estimated that, but have changed the title to "executive officer" with a salary of \$2,500. The man who has been in this position has just resigned. He is the executive officer of the Board of Children's Guardians, which has a legal guardianship of more than 2,000 children. The position should have a man who is an able executive, and who is a good business man, who knows well how to look after children, who knows how to investigate the institutions and homes where these children are placed.

This man has left us to go to the small city of Norfolk at a salary of \$3,000, and the members of the Board of Children's Guardians and the members of the Board of Charities have been talking to me, and we do not know where to turn to get a competent person for that extremely important work—having the custody of 3,000 children—on such a small salary as \$1,800. There are many positions in the District government where the salaries ought to be increased, but that man—it happened that he had some private means, but he has gone, and we are at our wits' end to find a competent man for that particular position, and I very much hope that the committee can see its way clear to increase the salary to \$2,500.

On page 74, in line 5, for caring for the children, we ask for \$190,000. The bill granted us \$150,000. Last year we had \$120,000 and a deficiency of \$39,000, making \$159,000. As the number of children increases from year to year, I have very little hope that the board and care will be reduced during the next fiscal year, so we would like to suggest that the item be increased to at least \$170,000.

Senator CURTIS. What was your deficit last year?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. \$39,000.

Senator CURTIS. You want how much?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Our estimate was \$190,000, but I believe \$170,000 will be sufficient.

ANACOSTIA RIVER AND FLATS.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The next is on page 82, Anacostia River and Flats.

Col. KUTZ. The commissioners received from the Secretary of War a letter asking for the insertion in the appropriation bill of the language that appears in the little slip at the right.

Senator CURTIS. Page 83?

Col. KUTZ. Page 83; yes, sir. The substance of the legislation is this, that it would give to the Secretary of War power to take immediate possession of the property which is to be condemned in connection with the improvement of Anacostia. The Anacostia project is outlined on a little chart which I lay before the committee, and which

shows in green the area which is to be acquired. Now much of this area is swamp land and in dispute as to the ownership, the United States claiming all that is below the water line, while certain parts are claimed by private individuals.

Senator CURTIS. Is it a navigable stream there?

Col. KUTZ. It has been navigable in the past up as far as Bladensburg, but the process of condemnation is a very lengthy one and several cases have been in the courts for several years.

Senator CURTIS. Have the courts held that the accretion there falls to the Government?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir; but we have not got a clear title and we can only get it by condemnation.

Senator CURTIS. In condemnation you admit that the other fellow owns everything.

Commissioner GARDINER. The part that you speak of as a navigable part is the Potomac Flats cases which are in the Supreme Court. This is a different case.

Col. KUTZ. The idea is that the Federal Government can get possession as soon as condemnation proceedings are instituted, and they can go ahead with their work of improvement. And for the benefit of the committee I will say that similar legislation was enacted by Congress two years ago in connection with river and harbor improvement, but the legislation is held not to apply to this particular case, and the request is made by the chief engineer, and transmitted with a favorable indorsement of the Secretary of War.

Senator CURTIS. What else?

WATER SERVICE.

Col. KUTZ. The third item on the right of page 83, an additional item for the purpose of an installation of water meters. That is also submitted at the request of the Secretary of War with recommendations.

Senator CURTIS. The whole of the Washington aqueduct item?

Col. KUTZ. Only the latter part of it. "For completing the purchase, installation, and maintenance of water meters, to be placed on the water services to the United States buildings, reservations, or grounds in the District of Columbia."

Senator CURTIS. We had that in last year, did we not?

Col. KUTZ. There was an appropriation for completing this installation but we were unable to complete the work on account of the increased cost of material. It would take \$9,600 for full meter service.

Senator CURTIS. Is that done to meter the water?

Col. KUTZ. Yes. That is the effect.

Senator CURTIS. There are three or four present now that did not hear the statement made before. I wish you would state the amount of water wasted at one of the Government institutions.

Col. KUTZ. The worst situation is at the Government Printing Office where filtered water is used for condensing purposes, and instead of being reused is discharged in the sewer from which it is pumped at the sewage pumping station, and if the institution were a private one and compelled to pay for its water, it would not continue that method of operation for 30 days, but would install a cool-

ing device on the roof and pump the water after it has been used from the condenser and cooled and brought back and used again.

Senator CURTIS. That would not cost very much money, either.

Col. KUTZ. It would be very much more economical for them to use this same water over again. What they are doing now is just to save on their own appropriation.

Senator CURTIS. But the water is getting scarce in the summer time, and my recollection is that some one said that the number of gallons per day—I have forgotten how many—was so large—

Col. KUTZ. I would estimate it at 3,000,000 gallons.

Senator CURTIS. A day, gallons of water a day.

Senator HALE. What is the consumption in the city?

Col. KUTZ. The consumption is between 65,000,000 and 75,000,000 gallons a day.

Senator HALE. And they waste 3,000,000?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Enough to supply a city of 30,000 people.

Col. KUTZ. That was the reason that we suggested and the Senate included in the appropriation bill a proviso for the payment of water by the users.

Senator CURTIS. What do you use now a day, you say?

Col. KUTZ. It is close to 70,000,000 gallons a day.

Senator CURTIS. That is in the whole city?

Col. KUTZ. The safe capacity of the Aequeduct is only supposed to be 65,000,000 gallons a day, but we have run it up to 71,000,000 gallons.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We have had to make a police regulation preventing the sprinkling of streets with hose, and using every possible means to conserve the water.

Col. KUTZ. It will be absolutely necessary in the near future to increase the emergency supply unless waste can be reduced.

Senator CURTIS. What I would like to have—and I ask you to make this statement—what I would like to have the commissioners do is to submit us some proposition that we can put into this bill that will stop that waste, because it is not right that so much water should be wasted.

Col. KUTZ. We think that the legislation that we suggest will do it.

Senator CURTIS. That is this meter proposition? Where is the legislation that you suggested?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. It was inserted in the Senate bill.

Senator CURTIS. Bring it to the attention of the committee when we come to it.

Go to the next.

WATER DEPARTMENT.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The next item was on page 87, beginning with line 16. We have the same situation that we had in the sewage pumping station where the steam engineers and assistant steam engineers are provided for at rates which were inadequate to secure competent men during the war, and we took that up and paid them out of the general appropriation.

Senator CURTIS. Did you have any trouble holding them at \$1,750?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The list of employees that we had to take off the statutory roll was as follows: Master mechanics—

Senator CURTIS. Let us get that. Master mechanic, line 15.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Line 15, yes; \$2,000. We are now paying him \$3,070.

Senator CURTIS. If we do not make this appropriation, will you continue to do that?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. No, sir. We paid these salaries out of the per diem appropriation as an emergency measure, and really contrary to law.

Senator CURTIS. I was going to ask you how you got authority to do it.

Col. KUTZ. Really a setting aside of the provision of law, but the commissioners felt justified in doing it, because otherwise it would have meant the cessation of operations.

Senator CURTIS. Could you hold him at \$2,000?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Just now, do you mean, sir?

Senator CURTIS. Yes.

Col. KUTZ. I did not advocate before the House increasing the statutory salaries to the amount necessary to continue their present rate of pay. I felt that it was better until this investigation commission had made its report to disregard the present statutory salaries and merely strike them out of the bill and pay on a lump-sum basis.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. For this year only.

Col. KUTZ. The suggestion that we made to the House committee was either to do that or to substitute specific statutory salaries, and salaries that were suggested were for the master mechanic, \$2,000; chief steam engineer, \$2,000.

Senator CURTIS. What line?

Col. KUTZ. Line 15, master mechanic, \$3,000.

Senator CURTIS. The next, chief engineer, line 17, what do you pay him?

Col. KUTZ. We suggest \$2,000 for him. That, with the bonus for 1920, would make his compensation equal to the present actual salary, and to the steam engineers \$2,000, the same as the chief.

Senator CURTIS. Where is that; what line?

Col. KUTZ. Line 17.

Senator CURTIS. Two at \$1,200 each.

Col. KUTZ. Making two at \$2,000 each.

Senator CURTIS. Giving them the same as the chief?

Col. KUTZ. One is entitled chief, but really the time is divided into eight-hour shifts, and each has charge of a shift, and as in the sewage pumping station they have no relief seven days a week.

Senator CURTIS. Do they have 30 days' leave, etc.?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir; they are on the statutory roll.

And the assistant steam engineers, on line 18, \$1,000, suggested at \$1,550.

Senator CURTIS. Is that what they are now getting?

Col. KUTZ. They are getting now \$1,772. This, with the \$240, would give them \$1,790; to be exact it would have to be slightly less than \$1,550, about \$1,530.

The foreman is now on the statutory roll at \$900, line 23. We suggest the statutory rate of \$1,350. They are now getting \$1,588.

Senator CURTIS. That would give them \$1,590?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir; they are getting within \$1.50 of that now.

Senator CURTIS. Now getting what?

Col. KUTZ. \$1,588.50. And the others on line 23, who are now on the statutory roll at \$720 we suggest \$1,050. They are now getting \$1,294.80. In that case it would mean a reduction of \$4.80 for the year.

Senator CURTIS. They are now getting what?

Col. KUTZ. \$1,294.80.

Senator CURTIS. Anything else?

Col. KUTZ. On page 86.

Senator CURTIS. That is what you want to add. Will you read and explain what it will do for the District?

Col. KUTZ. I want to speak first of the item of \$400,000 in line 4. Heretofore or until recent years, under the specific appropriations provided for in the bill, the balance of the water fund was appropriated and made available for the extension of the high service. The amount has been limited by the House to \$400,000. Now, we have no objection to offer to the principle of a specific amount, but suggest the amount be made \$490,000.

Senator CURTIS. It does not increase the appropriation any?

Col. KUTZ. It all comes out of the water revenues.

Senator CURTIS. It authorizes you to use \$20,000 more out of the water fund?

Col. KUTZ. \$90,000.

Senator CURTIS. Your appropriation last year was \$420,000, and you want \$490,000?

Col. KUTZ. \$490,000.

Senator CURTIS. Give us the reason for that, please.

Col. KUTZ. The need for an additional water service in the suburbs is increasing every year, and we have been making gradual extensions to meet building needs, but we have been unable to take out of the appropriation enough to increase the trunk mains.

Now, a number of years we did extend the trunk mains from the pumping station to the Reno reservoir, but we must go now north of the pumping station and swing around to Georgia Avenue and unite with the Reno system for the third high service. That will involve an expenditure of \$175,000 of itself. We will not be able to do it this year, but with the \$490,000 available, we will be able to make a start on that very important extension of the trunk main. We could advantageously spend the entire balance, but we appreciate the desire of the House committee especially to have a specific sum appropriated.

Senator CURTIS. We want a specific sum, this committee does too. I think that hereafter, after this appropriation bill, an effort will be made to compel your people to itemize everything, to know what its money is going to do. If I had my idea about it I would not make a lump-sum appropriation for anything.

Col. KUTZ. We are proposing to submit for consideration by the House and the Senate next year the estimates of the Water Department in a different form because in the present form they are most unsatisfactory, and it is impossible to tell from an examination of the estimates just what is spent for any specific purpose. We want to put that in much in the same form that we submit the Sewer Department estimates with specific sums for specific items.

Senator PHIPPS. I would like to ask if it would be possible to put it in on a budget system basis?

Senator CURTIS. We are trying to get a budget system for the whole Government.

Senator PHIPPS. I did not think that it prevailed in the District of Columbia. I should think if any changes are in mind they should be made having in view the probability of the adoption of the budget system.

Col. KUTZ. I think we really have that as far as District appropriations are concerned right now, because we are forbidden by law to submit estimates in excess of twice the estimated revenue of the District.

Senator PHIPPS. But when you count your appropriation to cover services continuing throughout the year, you do not have those divided into a monthly amount and see how you are coming out on an appropriation at the end of each month?

Col. KUTZ. We are required by law to allot this appropriation into four quarters.

Senator PHIPPS. You get it down to a quarterly basis instead of a monthly?

Col. KUTZ. Yes. The suggested language —

Senator CURTIS. Page 86, under line 6, is it?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir—is —

That on and after July 1, 1920, all users of water furnished through the water supply and distribution system of the District of Columbia, including all departments, branches, and agencies of the United States and the government of the District of Columbia, shall be required to pay for all water so furnished, at rates determined by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia and approved by Congress. Payments for said water shall be made by officers of the United States and the District of Columbia, respectively, in charge and control of all buildings and plants of the United States and the government of the District of Columbia from any appropriations available for said purpose. All such payments shall be made to the collector of taxes of the District of Columbia, who shall deposit same in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the water fund. Said commissioners shall submit with their estimates to Congress at the beginning of its session December, 1919, and annually thereafter, a schedule of proposed water rates.

Senator CURTIS. Under that you would make the Government institutions pay the same water rate as the individuals and in the same way?

Col. KUTZ. In the same manner. Whether the same rate, would be for Congress to determine. Just now the commissioners fix the water rate, but we are proposing that that be fixed by Congress on the recommendation of the commissioners.

Senator CURTIS. Do the departments pay for the water used now?

Col. KUTZ. No.

Senator CURTIS. And this would make them pay for the water they use?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir.

Senator CURTIS. What is your income from water now, this year?

Col. KUTZ. About \$800,000.

Senator CURTIS. I think that is my recollection. It is not enough. About how much would this add, do you suppose?

Col. KUTZ. My recollection is that if the same rates were charged it would add to the revenue about \$300,000.

Senator HARRIS. You mean besides what the Government would pay for water?

Col. KUTZ. That would be adding to the revenue just what the Government would have to pay. But the water fund could be built up. You could make a less rate to our consumers, or you could, if you wanted to—the rates now are quite comparable to those paid in other cities.

Senator PHIPPS. I understand that if you were collecting reasonable rates from the Government departments and all users of water you would then have enough to equal the cost of furnishing water and the maintenance of your plant.

Col. KUTZ. Yes, sir; and enough to pay interest on the investment.

Senator HALE. Why should you not do better than that? Water companies are generally very profitable.

Col. KUTZ. I do not believe we could make very much money on the present rate.

Senator HALE. The rates are very low?

Col. KUTZ. The rates are very low.

Senator CURTIS. Water here in a year costs me less than it costs at home in two months.

Col. KUTZ. At the present rate it is a self-sustaining proposition.

Senator CURTIS. What is next?

Col. KUTZ. I want to call attention to the item of legislation which the Senate included.

Senator CURTIS. What page is that?

Col. KUTZ. This is a separate section. This is an item of legislation that passed the House last year in the form of a separate bill, known as the Zihlman bill, and looking toward a further investigation in connection with an increase in the water supply. It directs the Secretary of War to appoint a commission of five members, three of whom are selected by the Chief of Engineers from the United States Army, from the Corps of Engineers, one to be selected by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and one from the engineering department of the District of Columbia. The duty of these men is to make a full investigation of the sources of water supply from rivers and streams in the proximity of the city of Washington, with a view to increasing the water supply of the District and to furnishing hydroelectric power. I would say that the commissioners in their advocacy of the Zihlman bill and the Chief of Engineers speaking for the War Department and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission in its advocacy of the Zihlman measure made no reference to hydroelectric power. That change was inserted by the Senate, and we can not help but feel that that insertion is unfortunate, because the appropriation is limited and is all needed for investigating water-supply purposes.

Senator CURTIS. What do you think should be stricken out? That amendment was added after the subcommittee had recommended the other. It was added by the full committee.

Col. KUTZ. We just suggest striking out the words "and to furnishing hydroelectric power."

This item appropriates \$15,000 for the expenses of this commission, and some years ago Congress gave its assent to the treatment of the water supply problem of the District as something broader than the District itself; that is, they wanted to create what was substantially a metropolitan water district, and they authorized the District, when it could spare water, to furnish it to the surrounding Maryland com-

munities at cost, but up to the present time we have been unable to furnish any water to Maryland.

Now there are several projects that have been investigated in the past for increasing the water supply. One contemplated an additional conduit from Great Falls. A second contemplated a junction with a power project pumping from behind a big dam to be built just near the District line on the Potomac.

And the third project contemplates going to the Patuxent River and getting a supply practically equal to what is now obtained from the Potomac, and since the Washington suburban sanitary commission was created, and since Congress authorized cooperation with it, studies have been made by that commission, which indicate the desirability of a further project; that is, going to the Patuxent, leading along different lines into the District, and the purpose of this legislation is to compare in detail this modified Patuxent project with the other projects that have been investigated.

Senator CURTIS. The other two projects?

Col. KUTZ. The other two, the Patuxent and Potomac.

Senator CURTIS. All they do is to investigate and recommend?

Col. KUTZ. That is all.

Senator CURTIS. Will you state to the committee as you did before, when you put this in, the likelihood of this city or District needing a greater water supply within a reasonable length of time.

Col. KUTZ. Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that with the present consumption and the experience of last summer before it that Congress ought to take some definite action in this matter. Last summer for a month or so the water was so low that we had to stop sprinkling the streets and had to stop watering the sidewalks, and we have done the same thing this year, and we restrict the sprinkling of lawns to the hours of eight in the morning and eight in the evening.

Senator CURTIS. You have had to enforce a regulation against the sprinkling of sidewalks?

Col. KUTZ. That regulation so far as this year is concerned can not be enforced until the expiration of 30 days from its promulgation, and it has not been out 30 days yet.

Several temporary measures have been suggested for relieving the water shortage, that is by pumping from the Potomac into the reservoir, and one of them contemplates lowering the level of the Howard University reservoir, and therefore raising the elevation of Delacarla. Those are temporary means and may have to be resorted to, because the larger increase may take five years to build.

Senator CURTIS. You are confident that a permanent increase will have to be provided soon?

Col. KUTZ. Yes, I have studied the curves showing the increase in population and the increase in consumption of water, indicating that we should have it surely by 1925, and we can not get it sooner than that if we are to build an additional conduit, and I think not only will we have to do this, but next winter that you will be asked to make a specific appropriation of probably half a million dollars to temporarily increase the supply by pumping.

Senator CURTIS. You recommend the adoption of this amendment?

Col. KUTZ. Very strongly. It is the united recommendation of the District Commissioners, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and the War Department.

Senator CURTIS. What is the second paragraph there?

Col. KUTZ. The second paragraph was to extend to the employees of the District of Columbia the privileges which Federal employees now enjoy under the compensation act, the act which provides for compensation when injured in the line of duty.

Senator CURTIS. It would not amount to very much, would it?

Col. KUTZ. We ask for an appropriation of \$5,000.

There have been some cases that have been more or less pitiful, where an employee while in the line of duty has had his eye injured, a per diem employee, and gone to the hospital and spent weeks, and in one case several months, and was unable to draw a dollar from the District during that time. He is not entitled to sick leave.

Senator CURTIS. What would he have received if this law had been enforced?

Col. KUTZ. He would have received compensation at his normal rate, under the same conditions that a Federal employee would have received it. We do not undertake to set up any additional machinery. We are proposing to use the machinery established for Federal employees, but merely to extend to the District of Columbia employees the same protection.

(The measure proposed by Col. Kutz is here printed in the record as follows:)

SEC. 8. The Secretary of War is authorized and directed to appoint a commission of five members, three of whom shall be selected from the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army and one from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and one from the engineering department of the District of Columbia, whose duty it shall be, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to make full investigation of the sources of water supply from rivers and streams in the proximity of the city of Washington, with the view to increasing the water supply of the District of Columbia, and to report their findings and recommendations to the Secretary of War at the earliest practicable time, said report to be accompanied by data and other information as to such sources of supply, together with estimates of the probable cost of a project or projects for the transmission of water sufficient to augment the present water supply of the District of Columbia commensurate with present and future needs, including the territory embraced within the jurisdiction of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and Federal military reservations contiguous to the District of Columbia. Such report shall be submitted to Congress by the Secretary of War with his recommendation. And for the purposes herein authorized there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$15,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be expended by and under the direction of said commission upon vouchers to be approved by the Secretary of War, and a detailed statement thereof shall accompany the commission's report.

SEC. 9. That all of the provisions of the act of Congress approved September 7, 1916, entitled "An act to provide compensation for employees of the United States suffering injuries while in the performance of their duties, and for other purposes," are hereby extended to employees of the government of the District of Columbia so far as they may be applicable, except to those members of the Police and Fire Departments of the District of Columbia who are pensioned or pensionable under the provisions of the District of Columbia appropriation act approved September 1, 1916; and there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$5,000, said amount to be set aside as a separate fund in the Treasury to be known as the District of Columbia Employees' Compensation Fund, which fund, including all additions that may be made to it, is hereby permanently appropriated for the payment of such compensation under the terms of said act of Congress approved September 7, 1916, that the commission provided for in said act shall award to employees of the government of the District of Columbia, which awards shall be paid in the manner now provided by law for the payment of the general expenses of the government of the District of Columbia. And the Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall submit annually to Congress, through the Secretary of the Treasury, estimates of appropriations necessary for the maintenance of this fund.

Senator CURTIS. Anything else?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. There are two little matters that I would like to refer to, back on page 27, the veterinary surgeon, where we would like to have you do what you did before.

Senator CURTIS. I wondered why you skipped that.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. The Senate before granted an increase and we would like to have that for the reason submitted last spring.

Senator CURTIS. How much do you want in there?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. \$1,500.

Senator CURTIS. Now, three of the members here did not hear the testimony. My recollection is that the man had charge of 800 horses and bought and examined all the horses, and devotes nearly all his time to the work. He is a graduate from a veterinary school, a good veterinarian, and in former years was able to earn money by doing outside work.

Commissioner BROWNLOW. That is the situation.

On page 72 or 73, at the top of the page, there is an item of \$50,000 for the tuberculosis hospital. Last year we had \$45,000. We have \$7,000 in the deficiency bill.

Senator CURTIS. What line is that?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. Line 2.

Senator CURTIS. You had how much?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. We had \$45,000 and \$7,000 deficiency, making \$52,000. We ask in our estimate for \$55,000.

Senator CURTIS. Anything else?

Commissioner BROWNLOW. That is all, I believe, Senator.

Senator CURTIS. Thank you very much.

(Thereupon, at 3.30 o'clock p. m., the committee adjourned subject to the call of the chairman.)

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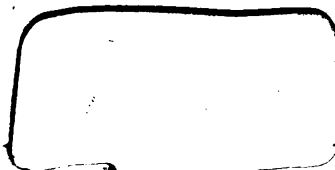
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